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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Fifth Session, 1939

8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th March, 1939

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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

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(9) The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT, in charge of the Forests and Excise Departments.

(10) The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Departments.

(11) The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of Public Health, Medical, Agriculture and Veterinary Departments.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER.

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A

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K

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Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur (General).]

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Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh. [Bankura West (General).]

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Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi. [Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan).]

N

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Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

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P

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Paul, Sir Hari Sankar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

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R

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S

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T

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Z

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THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Volume LIV—No. 3.

(Official Report of the Fifth Session.)

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 8th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

MR. SPEAKER (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

Obituary Reference.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, before the proceedings begin it is my melancholy duty to report the death of Sir Evan Cotton, the first President of the Bengal Legislative Council. The intelligence has been received an hour ago from London. He was a member of Parliament from East Finsbury and was sent out to India as the first President of the Bengal Legislative Council where he not only created traditions, but also created many other precedents in the Legislative work of this country. He was the son of a distinguished father who devoted himself to the cause of India. Sir Evan Cotton was a well-known figure, not only a writer and distinguished scholar; he devoted himself to the interests of India. His death is a loss to us and I hope you will kindly rise in your seats as a mark of respect and sorrow.

(All the members rose in their seats.)

Thank you.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Calcutta Taxi Association.

*138. **Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department aware—

(*i*) of the existence of the Calcutta Taxi Association with over 550 members from taxi owners and taxi drivers of Calcutta;

(*ii*) that the request of this Association for representation on the Local Traffic Advisory Board has been refused on the ground that the interests of the taxi owners and drivers are already represented on the same Board by a member of a similar Association; and

(*iii*) that this latter Association has only 40 members on its rolls?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, do the Government consider the desirability of according representation to the Calcutta Taxi Association on the Local Traffic Advisory Board?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) The membership of the Taxi Association is believed to be in the neighbourhood of 500 owners and drivers

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) There are some 40 members who own some 75 per cent of the taxis in Calcutta.

(*b*) No.

Suspension of payment of rent for applications before Debt Settlement Boards.

*139. **Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE ROY CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware that the tenants have largely suspended payment of rent pending the disposal of applications filed before Debt Settlement Boards?

(*b*) Have the Government received any representations from landlords for the redress of the aforesaid grievances?

(*c*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken on them and with what result?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT AND RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) Some complaints were received.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. PRAMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*b*), does the Hon'ble Minister realise that the laws regarding the Debt Settlement Boards interfere with the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act and that these laws should be revised accordingly as soon as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: No complaint of the kind has yet been received.

Realisation of abwabs from tenants under Court of Wards, Dinajpur.

***140. Babu SYAMAPROSAD BARMAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware

(*i*) that *abwabs* or illegal exactions are being realised from the tenants under the management of Court of Wards in the district of Dinajpur; and

(*ii*) that, during settlement operation in the *mauzas* under police-station Kaliaganj, in the district of Dinajpur, Attestation Officers have come to the finding that in respect of realising *abwabs*, the estates under the Court of Wards, especially Bahin and Haripur Wards' estates, have surpassed other private estates?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking proper steps to put a stop to this practice?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) Allegations regarding levy of *abwabs* by the staff of the two Wards' Estates in this district have recently been made by the tenants in course of settlement work and are under investigation both by the Settlement Department and the Collector.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the District Magistrate took up the investigation?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: He has taken up the investigation. The complaint was received by the middle of February and the matter is still under investigation.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It was taken up immediately.

Opening of a cinema house by ex-detenus of Dinajpur.

*141. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that several ex-detenus of Dinajpur applied twice to Rai S. P. Ghosh Bahadur, the then District Magistrate, for licence for opening a cinema house within the town of Dinajpur; and

(*ii*) that their applications were rejected?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what was the reason for the refusal?

(*c*) Is it a fact that they have again applied for licence to the present District Magistrate, but no orders have yet been passed?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of helping the ex-detenus in securing employment for them?

(*e*) Is it a fact that licences for more than one cinema house have been given in several districts and subdivisions in the Rajshahi Division?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*b*) There was already one cinema in the town and it was considered that a second would not be a commercial proposition and would only lead to unhealthy competition.

(*c*) Application has been made and orders have been passed.

(*e*) Yes. There are two cinemas each in the districts of Darjeeling, Rajshahi and Rangpur but not in any one subdivision.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Government have got to do with the healthy and unhealthy competition between two private commercial firms?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It leads to disturbances and difficulties of various kinds.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has any data or facts in his possession to show that the two cinemas in district of Dinajpur, will not be successful commercial propositions when there are two cinemas in many of the districts in the province of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It depends on the district headquarters, its population and the prosperity of the district.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that in view of the fact that the Bogra town is much more smaller than Dinajpur why two cinemas are allowed to function there?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there are any rules issued by the Government for the guidance of the District Magistrate in the matter of granting licenses to cinemas?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Certain communication on the subject of cinemas is under the consideration of Government

Site for headquarters of Noakhali district.

*142. **Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Government have received the report of the Committee appointed to examine the question of a suitable site for the permanent headquarters of the Noakhali district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have come to a decision regarding the matter?

(*c*) If no decision has been arrived at and with reference to the reply to starred question No. 212 (*c*) during the last session of the Assembly, dated the 24th August, 1938, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long will it take the Government to come to a decision in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) No definite date can be given. All departments concerned with the various problems raised have to be consulted which necessarily takes time but it is expected that it will be possible to come to a decision at an early date.

Establishment of Agricultural Farm in Noakhali.

***143. Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have sanctioned the establishment of a District Agricultural Farm in the Noakhali district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the said farm has not yet been established?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that 95 per cent of the population depend on agriculture as their main source of livelihood?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) The establishment of a District Agricultural Farm at Noakhali has not yet been sanctioned.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) I am aware that a large majority of the people of Noakhali mainly depend on agriculture for their livelihood but I cannot vouchsafe the correctness of the percentage given by the member.

(*d*) Yes. I have taken up the scheme of establishment of a District Agricultural Farm at Noakhali in right earnest but owing to the uncertainty about the headquarters of the district, it has not yet been possible to select a site and draw up the plan and estimates necessary for sanctioning the scheme.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider the desirability of selecting Maijdi as the site of the agricultural farm in view of the fact that it had once been selected as the headquarters of the district, but has now been abandoned?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Unless the site for the headquarters of the district is finally settled, it is not possible to select the site of the farm, because it is desirable that the agricultural farm should be in the vicinity of the headquarters of the district.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many districts of Bengal, district agricultural farms have been established?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I cannot give the number off-hand, but most of the districts have got agricultural farms.

Statistics of death caused by malaria in Burdwan.

144. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing from August, 1938, to date—

(*a*) the total number of deaths from malarial fever in each subdivision separately in the district of Burdwan;

(*b*) what steps have been taken by Government and District Board for its prevention, and

(*c*) the names of the charitable dispensaries which are under the District Board and Union Boards within their localities?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) A statement showing the total number of deaths from malaria in each subdivision of the district of Burdwan from August, 1938, to December, 1938, is laid on the table.

(*b*) and (*c*) Statements giving the information are laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 144.

Name of subdivision.	Total number of deaths.
1. Sadar	5,316 (excluding figure for Memari for December not received).
2. Kalna	2,604
3. Katwa	2,131 (excluding figure for Ketugram thana for December not received).
4. Asansol	718

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 144.

During the last year the following allotments for free distribution of quinine were made to the District Board of Burdwan by Government:—

(1) A sum of Rs. 4,350 to the Civil Surgeon, Burdwan, for free distribution of quinine among hospitals and dispensaries maintained and aided by District Board.

(2) A sum of Rs. 2,100 to the Civil Surgeon for free distribution of quinine among hospitals and dispensaries other than those maintained and aided by the District Boards.

(3) A sum of Rs. 5,950 to the Chairman, District Board, for free distribution of quinine through agencies other than hospitals and dispensaries.

The Director of Public Health also made the following grants to the District Board from the reserve at his disposal:—

(1) Cinchona febrifuge powder	45 lbs.
(2) Cinchona febrifuge tablets	30 lbs.
(3) Crude quinine sulphate tablets	50 lbs.

The District Board purchased quinine worth Rs. 6,800 during that year against Rs. 4,000 in the previous year for distribution through the District Board charitable dispensaries. The distribution of quinine and cinchona was started by the District Board from the beginning of the malaria season.

The District Board has also drawn up anti-malaria schemes for the Sadar, Memari and Jamalpur thanas for eradicating malaria in the localities concerned and has forwarded them to the Director of Public Health. The schemes are now under the consideration of the Public Health and Irrigation Departments.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (c) of starred question No. 144.

NAMES OF DISPENSARIES OF BURDWAN DISTRICT BOARD.

Thana.	District Board dispensary.	Union Board dispensary.
I. Sadar subdivision—		
1. Burdwan ..	..	Rayan.
2. Jamalpur ..	Panchra ..	....
	Amarpur ..	Ajnapur.
3. Raina ..	Keshabpur ..	....
	Meral ..	....
4. Khandaghosh ..	Khandaghosh ..	....
	Gupinathpur (started from 14th October, 1938).	....

	Thana.	District Board dispensary.	Union Board dispensary.
5.	Memari	Kaleswar Nudipur Palla Satgachia Ghose	Rasulpur. Bijur. ....
6.	Bhatar ..	Bhatar ..	Nota Balgona.
7.	Galsi ..	Adra ..	Mankar. Kurkuba.
8.	Ausgram ..	Ausgram ..	Dignagore. Bhedia (started from 14th April, 1938).
II.	*Kalna subdivision—*		
9.	Kalna ..	Chagram .. Sultanpur ..	Angerson. Baradhamas. Baidyapur. Anukhal. Dhatrigram. Kristodebpur. Madhupur.
10.	Purbasthali ..	Purbasthali ..	Patuli. Dogachia. Samudragrah.
11.	Manteswar ..	Kaigram Jamna Kussumgram (Homeo)	....
III.	*Katwa subdivision—*		
12.	Katwa ..	....	Singi. Sreekhanda. Geedhgram.
13.	Ketugram ..	Ketugram ..	Khandra. Mougram. Rajur.
14.	Mangalkote ..	Mangalkote	....
IV.	*Asansol subdivision—*		
15.	Kanksa ..	Kanksa Molandighi	....
16.	Jamuria ..	Nandi	....
17.	Ondal ..	....	Ukhara.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি যে সমস্ত রোগী বহুকাল ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভুগে—শেষকালে 'হার্টফেল্' কোরে মারা গিয়েছে,—ম্যালেরিয়ার দরুণ মৃত্যুসংখ্যা যে দেওয়া হয়েছে, তার ভিতর তাদের সংখ্যাও অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা হয়েছে কি না?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:

মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি মনে করেন যে বর্দ্ধমানের ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণকল্পে যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে সেটা কি যথেষ্ট?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: As far as it was possible for them.

Appointment of Watchers in Criminal Investigation Department (Intelligence Branch) in 1937.

***145. Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state whether any Watcher was appointed in the Intelligence Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department, Bengal, in 1937?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many Watchers were appointed and whether all of them were Hindus;

(*ii*) if all were not Hindus how many of them were Hindus and how many Muslims; and

(*iii*) whether immediately after their appointment as Watchers they were given officiating posts of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of the Intelligence Branch by the Deputy Inspector-General (Intelligence Branch) and soon after that order whether they were confirmed in the permanent vacancies (Intelligence Branch)?

(*c*) If answer to (*b*) (*iii*) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state—

(*i*) whether those officers were promoted according to Police Order (7) of 1937 and whether they went through the course of police training before such confirmation; and

(*ii*) whether at the time of giving officiating to those Watchers and confirming them in the permanent vacancies there were Muslim officers who had been officiating as Assistant Sub-Inspectors in the Intelligence Branch and at that time or a few days after, been declared fit for confirmation by the Deputy Inspector-General (Intelligence Branch)?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether the confirmation of those officers to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (Intelligence Branch) before going through the course of police training was brought to the notice of the Inspector-General of Police?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether the Inspector-General of Police has reverted them to the rank of Watchers and sent them to Sardah for training?

(*f*) Whether he considers the desirability of confirming the deserving Muslim Assistant Sub-Inspectors in the permanent vacancies?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes

(*b*) (*i*) Seventeen. All Hindus.

(*ii*) Does not arise

(*iii*) Fourteen were allowed to officiate as Assistant Sub-Inspectors while probationary constables None of them have yet been confirmed.

(*c*) (*i*) Police Order No. 7 does not apply to the Intelligence Branch As I have stated already, none of the officers have been confirmed.

(*ii*) There was one such Muslim constable

(*d*) Does not arise

(*e*) The question of reversion does not arise but nine of the constables have been sent as probationary constables to the Police Training College for training and the remainder will be sent before being confirmed in the rank of constable.

(*f*) Communal considerations are not taken into account in the matter of promotion.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন—যেহেতু কংগ্রেস এবং অন্যান্য রাজনৈতিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ বিশেষ কোরে হিন্দুদের দ্বারাই পরিচালিত হোয়ে থাকে, সেইহেতু হিন্দু ওয়াচারদের দ্বারা যাতে হিন্দুদের সর্ব্বনাশ আরো ভালো কোরে হয়—সেইজন্যই হিন্দু ওয়াচারই বেশী নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these watchers were appointed?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: These appointments were made by the old Government and they were made between the years 1932 and 1935. Most likely these were made in 1932 and I believe they were mostly appointed to meet the terrorist movement and it was considered that Hindu watchers would be more suitable for this work.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the educational qualifications of these watchers or what were the remarkable service rendered by them that prompted the Government to give them these prize posts superseding the claim of a Muslim constable who was already in service?

Mr. SPEAKER: The latter part of your question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I beg to draw your attention to the fact that the Hon'ble Minister says in reply to (*f*) "that communal considerations are not taken into account in the matter of promotion" and in his reply to (*e*)(*ii*) he admits that there was one such Muslim constable in service at the time To supersede the claim of that gentleman what educational qualifications did these Hindu watchers possess or what departmental services did they render which prompted the Government to give these Hindu watchers those prize posts? That is the question I want to ask

(No reply.)

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: With respect to answer (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why communal considerations are not taken into account in the matter of promotion?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That has always been the accepted policy of the Government

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি যে এখন থেকে সমস্ত watchers মুসলমান সমাজ থেকে নিতে চেষ্টা কোরবেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to (*e*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the reason for superseding the claim of that Muslim constable?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, the reason was that the posts were created as Assistant Sub-Inspectors in the Intelligence Branch Department for watchers They were temporary posts and these 17 people were appointed to these temporary posts. Then just before this Government took office a certain number of posts were made permanent and these persons who were holding these temporary posts were going to be made permanent, but at the present time according to the rules there is no direct recruitment to the cadre of Assistant Sub-Inspectors. So they were made permanent constables and given the temporary posts of Assistant Sub-Inspectors. They have not yet been confirmed as Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In reply to *(b)(iii)* the Hon'ble Minister says, "Fourteen were allowed to officiate as Assistant Sub-Inspectors, while probationary constables", whereas in his reply to *(c)(ii)* the Hon'ble Minister admits, "that the Muslim gentleman was a constable". Thereby we can presume that he was not a probationary constable and under the circumstances when the Assistant Sub-Inspectors are not directly recruited under the rules, why was the claim of the Muslim constable who was already in service as a constable superseded?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already explained, these 17 posts were all temporary Assistant Sub-Inspectors. Now these posts have been made permanent and ordinarily these persons would have been appointed permanently to these posts but under the existing rules there is no direct recruitment to the grade of Assistant Sub-Inspectors. So these persons have been appointed as permanent constables and allowed to act as Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not yet been replied.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these 17 posts were made permanent?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Just before this Government took office.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I beg to submit that the Hon'ble Minister did not reply to my question.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was your question?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: My question was this: The Hon'ble Minister in his reply to *(b)(iii)* states that "these 14 Hindu watchers were probationary constables", whereas in his reply to *(c)(ii)* he admits that the Muslim gentleman who was already in service was a confirmed constable and these 14 were probationary constables. The Hon'ble Minister also admits that Assistant Sub-Inspectors are recruited not directly but through promotion. If that be the criterion, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the reason to supersede the claim of that Muslim constable who was already in service and choose those Hindu watchers, the despicable creatures!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. If you put your question in that way, I am afraid I shall have to disallow it. I might say this that the Question time is not the occasion to indulge in attacks.

Effects of Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act in Bengal.

*146. **Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware that since the coming into operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act in Bengal, majority of the cultivators are not getting any loan from *mahajans* to defray the expenses of their bare necessities of life, for purchase of agricultural seeds and for meeting costs of cultivation?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken by Government to ameliorate the condition of these poor cultivators?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of amending the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) It is reported that it is difficult for cultivators to obtain loans.

(*b*) The hon'ble member is referred to rule 51A under the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Rules published with Notification No. 89 R.I., dated the 17th January, 1939, in the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 19th January, 1939

(*c*) No

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*a*), where the Hon'ble Minister has said, "it is reported that it is difficult for cultivators to obtain loans", will he be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating to devise any means whereby the *mahajans* would be encouraged to give loans to the cultivators?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I would refer the honourable member to the rule where it is contemplated by Government that the local *mahajans* could be induced to advance loans on a short-term basis to the cultivators. The purpose of this rule is exactly the same as is mentioned by the honourable member in his supplementary question

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the rule does not ensure the advance of loans by the local *mahajans* and there is no mention in the rules of any help or any assistance or any encouragement by Government to the local *mahajans* for such advances?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I would rather regard that as a matter of opinion. As I have just explained, the intention of Government is to encourage the *mahajans* to advance loans to the cultivators, on a short-term basis.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which portion of the rule refers to the steps taken by Government for encouraging *mahajans* to advance loans?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I would refer the honourable member to the rule itself.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you kindly read the portion of the rule which actually and definitely refers to such advances? It is no use bluffing the House like this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order I quite appreciate your point, but it is not right to utilise the Question time for passing opinions. This has become a serious evil Cross references are so much and so often made that they tantamount to a disturbance So, I request you to desist from making any cross references but simply to put your question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I bow to your ruling, Sir At the same time, I hope you will permit me to say that this kind of reply is absolutely putting a member off his track.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have got a remedy under the Standing Orders.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is no remedy unless one calls names. I want a reply to my question, Sir Which portion of the rule actually refers to the steps taken by Government for encouraging the *mahajans* to grant loans to cultivators in larger quantities?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I have nothing further to add, but if the honourable member would be good enough to go through the rules he will find it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have thoroughly read the rules but have not found any and you also won't find any.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, the Hon'ble Minister has replied by referring you to the rules, and you can put supplementary questions for further information but I cannot allow you to raise a discussion on the matter.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if rule 51A has actually solved the problem of rural indebtedness?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Whether it has solved the problem of rural credit, it is very difficult for me to say at this stage, but it was with this intention that the rule was framed. We have got to wait and see what effect it will have upon the problem.

Mr. BIRENDRA NATH MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the rule referred to in reply (*b*) has the effect of encouraging the *mahajans* to advance loans?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I think I have already stated that it is with the definite object of encouraging the local mahajans to advance loans that these rules have been framed.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he tried to obtain any information from the mufassil regarding the effect of rule 51A?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I am sorry, we have not come to that stage as yet but have to wait for some time before anything definite can be said.

Mr. BIRENDRA NATH MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is within the information of Government that the rules have as a matter of fact encouraged the *mahajans* to advance money to the agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I am very sorry, I cannot answer that question off-hand

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তাঁর উত্তরে জানিয়েছেন যে কৃষকদের যে বাস্তবিকই খুব দুর্দ্দশা হয়েছে তা তিনিও বুঝতে পারেন। এক্ষেত্রে আমার জিজ্ঞাস্য এই যে তাদের এই দুর্দ্দশা লাঘব কোরতে Bengal Government গ্রামে গ্রামে Bank প্রতিষ্ঠা করার কোন রকম পরিকল্পনা কি রাখেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the answer given in (*a*), what is in the contemplation of Government to give relief to the agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I have to wait and see what effect these rules have upon the problem before anything can be done by Government.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তাঁর জবাবে বোলেছেন যে তিনি শুনতে পেয়েছেন যে টাকা পেতে কৃষকদের খুব কষ্ট হয়। কৃষকদের কি কি কষ্ট হচ্ছে তিনি দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Are the Government aware that there are other cogent reasons for rural indebtedness and that the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act is not alone responsible for it?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I think I have answered questions of that nature on many occasions in the past that it is not the Debtors Act which is responsible for that position; one of the reasons, as I have mentioned, is the economic depression due to the failure of crops and another is past irregularity in repayment of loans.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has got any scheme in hand for reviving rural credit in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I think I have said before that the problem is under consideration of Government.

Trial of goondas for assaulting Dr. Sanaullah.

*142. **Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state why the men who assaulted Dr. Sanaullah, a member of the Assembly, on the 6th October, 1938, and attempted to murder him, were not sent up for trial?

(*b*) How many of them were arrested?

(*c*) Why were they released on bail?

(*d*) How many of them were identified at the time of test-identification?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the properties stolen at the time of assault were exhibited in a public meeting at Chandarhat, police-station Boalkhali, Chittagong, on the same day?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) There was no evidence to justify a charge sheet.

(*b*) Two.

(*c*) The Magistrate considered that bail should be granted.

(*d*) Two.

(*e*) No.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the final report was submitted?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the final report was submitted only after the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan was taken into the Cabinet?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the two persons identified were the confirmed goondas of Chittagong town?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the persons identified were several times convicted in criminal courts?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have no such information.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Dr. Sanaullah himself and some of his near relatives identified the two accused named in the *ejahar*?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes, that is so.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the evidence of two respectable witnesses was sufficient to convict the accused?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This is with respect to the decision arrived at by the Magistrate, and if anybody had any grievance he had the option to move the High Court or the District Judge.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplate to move the High Court to get the criminals punished?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Government are satisfied that the decision arrived at by the Magistrate is correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what direction was sent out from Government to the District Magistrate in connection with the trial of this case?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I think it is a disgraceful insinuation that has been made by the honourable member; it has no justification whatsoever.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: With reference to answer (*a*) does it represent the opinion of Government?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes. For the information of this House I will read out the whole thing.

The men who it is alleged attempted to murder Dr. Sanaullah, M.L.A., were not sent up for trial, because the Police Final Report after the investigation, which was supervised by the Circle Inspector and the Additional Superintendent of Police was to the effect that the case was not proved and that there was no evidence to justify a charge sheet. Two men were arrested, Borhanuddin the Sampanwala, son of Ali Mia, and Ahsanullah, son of Hafiz Tarikatullah, the other accused. There was no evidence to connect Borhanuddin the Sampanwalla with the occurrence. The test identification of Borhanuddin by Dr. Sanaullah and his two companions was of little worth as they were with the Sampanwala for half an hour in the sampan, and that accused never denied that he was the Sampanwala. Ahsanullah, the other accused, was only identified by Mr. Ishaque who stated that he had known Ashanullah for the last four years and therefore his test identification was also of scant value. It transpired during the enquiry that Dr. Sanaullah and his party were brought ashore by the Sampanwala in his sampan and that they

did not swim ashore as was claimed by Dr. Sanaullah in the First Information Report. The Police Fina' Report also states that the complainant and his party have no support or sympatny from the general public of Chittagong and that nobody was willing to come forward and give evidence against the accused.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Now that Dr. Sanaullah has gone over to that side, will the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. That question does not arise. You must frame your questions properly. What is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I just wanted to state——

Mr. SPEAKER: You can't do that. This is not an occasion on which you can express your views. I have warned you several times before, but you are still doing it deliberately I am, however, prepared to give you the fullest facilities for putting supplementary questions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it will be possible for the police now to find evidence and send up the accused for trial?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I submit, Sir, that there is again an insinuation in this question and as such it should not be allowed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you are a lawyer of repute and you can judge whether there is any insinuation in my question or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot answer your question now. But if you were in the witness box I would have treated you in a different manner. (Laughter.)

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the police in Chittagong feel it difficult to properly investigate against the goondas because if they declared themselves as Muslim League men and send a letter to Government the officers are liable to be taken to task?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Bengal is not ruled as in the Congress provinces.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble the Home Minister agree that Bengal is not ruled as in the Congress provinces because it is ruled much worse?

(No reply.)

Effect of Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act on private loan transaction in mufassals.

***148. Maulvi ABDUL BARI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware—

(*i*) that private loan transactions have been stopped in the mufassal as a result of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act; and

(*ii*) that there is a demand for opening sources of loan for the cultivators?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, are the Government proposing to take for affording facilities to the cultivators to get loans?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) (*i*) The hon'ble member is referred to the reply given in answer to starred question No. 50 during the last session of the Assembly

(*ii*) Reports maintain this view.

(*b*) The hon'ble member's attention is invited to rule 51A of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Rules published with Notification No. 89 R I., dated the 17th January, 1939, in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th January, 1939. It is expected that this rule will remove any impediment to rural short-term credit

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what time will Government take for launching a scheme for affording facilities to the cultivators to get easy loans?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: It is very difficult to give an exact idea of the time.

Debt Settlement Boards within Sadar subdivision, Bakarganj.

*149. **Maulvi SADARUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the areas of Union Board and Debt Settlement Board within Sadar (South) excluding police-station Kotwali in the district of Bakarganj;

(*ii*) how many Debt Settlement Boards have been established up to this time in the aforesaid areas;

(*iii*) how many Muhammadan Chairmen have been appointed in those Boards;

(*iv*) how many Muhammadan clerks have been appointed in the Debt Settlement Boards of these areas;

(*v*) what is the percentage of Muhammadans in these areas; and

(*vi*) the minimum qualification required for the post of a clerk in the Debt Settlement Board office?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in Rajapur Debt Settlement Board (Sadar South), Bakarganj, and also in Faridpur Debt Settlement Board there were Muhammadan candidates for the post of clerks but they have not been appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) (*i*) Police-stations of Bakarganj, Jhalakati, Nalchiti and Rajapur. The area of each Debt Settlement Board is equivalent to the area of corresponding Union Board.

(*ii*) 28.

(*iii*) 12.

(*iv*) 9.

(*v*) 71, 40, 62 and 76 per cent., respectively.

(*vi*) Matriculate, as a rule.

(*b*) Regarding Rajapur Board, yes; regarding Faridpur Board, no.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*v*), in which he states that in Rajapur the Muslims are 76 per cent., why even though a Muhammadan Matriculate was available, he was not appointed as a clerk of the Debt Settlement Board?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, the candidate who was appointed had much better qualifications than the Muhammadan candidate.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Because he is a Hindu! (Laughter.)

Government ban on institutions in Bogra, Rangpur and Pabna.

*150. **Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number and name of the institutions still under Government restriction and ban in the districts of Bogra, Rangpur and Pabna; and

(*ii*) whether there is any public and Congress property still in the possession of the Government in those districts?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of—

(*i*) lifting the ban; and

(*ii*) handing over the property to its owner?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) One in the district of Bogra known by the name of Bogra Ganamangal Asram. None in Rangpur and Pabna districts.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. In answer to question (*b*), the Hon'ble Minister says "does not arise". But question (*b*) is in two parts, viz., the desirability of lifting the ban and the desirability of handing over the property to its owner. How can his answer cover these two parts of the question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, that is so.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The reply stands corrected, as pointed out by the honourable member.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি জানেন যে রংপুর জেলার অধীন পাইবান্ধা মহকুমার ডিমক স্মৃতি পাঠাগার বর্তমানে গভর্ণমেণ্ট দখলে রাখা কোরে রেখেছেন?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am not aware of it.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to initiate an enquiry on the basis of the question put by Babu Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty that the said Tilak Smriti library of Gaibandha is still under ban, and 3 to 4 hundred books are in the possession of the police? I may add, Sir, that I happen to be the Secretary of that institution.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will certainly make an enquiry.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন—এই বগুড়া গণমঙ্গল আশ্রমের ban, শীঘ্র উঠিয়ে নেওয়া হবে কি না?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As soon as Government are satisfied that it is not going to give any more trouble. (Laughter.)

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন—বগুড়ার গণমঙ্গল আশ্রমের কি প্রকারের কার্য্যপদ্ধতির দরুণ উহা এখনো গভর্ণমেণ্টের করুণা লাভে বঞ্চিত রোয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am afraid that in public interest I cannot give all the information, but I can assure the honourable member that there is ample justification for keeping the ban.

Tenancy right to bargadars in Kishoreganj, Mymensingh.

***151. Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE ROY CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that there exists in the Kishoreganj subdivision, district Mymensingh, a feeling amongst the tenantry to the effect that Government have decided to confer tenancy right on existing *bargadars;* and

(*ii*) that breaches of the peace are occurring in the locality?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government contemplate taking to remove the unrest?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINCH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) Rumours to this effect are current in that area which the local officers have contradicted with a view to remove all possible misapprehensions on that account.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE ROY CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any effect on the tenantry by the official contradiction about the *barga* system?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINCH ROY: I believe so.

Disbursement of discretionary grant.

*152. **Mr. ABUL HOSSAIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount spent as discretionary grants by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during the years 1937-38 and 1938-39;

(*b*) the institutions for which the grants were so made; and

(*c*) the districts in which the said institutions are situated?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker): (*a*) 1937-38 Rs. 13,572 and 1938-39 Rs. 15,000.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us specifically the sums disbursed to each institution in the year 1938-39?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I want notice, Sir.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the amount and state the reasons for giving assistance to an I. C. S. officer for the publication of the book referred to in the statement laid on the library table?

(Cries of "Ishaque, Ishaque" from Congress members.)

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I cannot reply to that question without notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the institutions that have been helped are meant for non-Muhammadans and how many for Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: The honourable member can count them up from the statement laid on the library table.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that from the statement which has been laid on the library table the objects of the institutions are difficult to find out? That is why I am asking this question. I know that there are institutions bearing names like Ahsanullah and such like But it is quite possible that in spite of the names being Muhammadan, the institutions may serve the interests of non-Muhammadans as well. It is really difficult to find out the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: Strictly speaking that question does not arise.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি যে সমস্ত institution কে টাকা দেওয়া হোয়েছে তার মধ্যে কতগুলি হিন্দুদের দ্বারা পরিচালিত হচ্ছে?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: এ টাকা chief Minister খরচ কোরেছেন এবং তিনি বোলছেন যে Communal basis এ খরচ করা হয় নাই।

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:

যে সমস্ত institution কে টাকা দেওয়া হোয়েছে তার মধ্যে কোন একটাও কি হিন্দু institution আছে।

(No reply.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that most of them go by the name of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Not most of them, but one or two.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Since the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has given us to understand that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: My question is this, Sir: will the Hon'ble the Finance Minister please enlighten us as to how many institutions have been helped which bear the prefix "Huq"?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি বোর্ডিবেন বোধনা সমিতি তিনিষ্টা কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. You ought to have known that by this time.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Foreign liquor licensees.

52. Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether a system of personal attendance of licensees in foreign liquor shops has recently been enforced; and

(*ii*) whether a similar system was introduced in the year 1922 but was subsequently withdrawn on the representation of foreign liquor licensees that such a system would greatly inconvenience them and hamper their business?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a large number of foreign liquor licensees depend on business orders from the mufassal by personal visits?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) of a feeling of alarm amongst foreign liquor licensees over the question of personal attendance of licensees in foreign liquor shops; and

(*ii*) that they are petitioning for redress through their associations but to no effect?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The system introduced in 1922, which is not exactly similar to the present system, was not altogether withdrawn, but it was modified to meet certain difficulties in some places.

(*b*) The number of cases in which the licensees themselves are required to go out to the mufassal to secure orders is very few and such a contingency can be met by taking leave from the Superintendent of Excise concerned. In case of big firms such orders are generally secured through agents and no difficulty can arise.

(*c*) The reply is in the negative.

Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: With reference to (*b*), in view of the fact that only one month's leave is granted to licensees during the year, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to extend the period of leave?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: I want notice.

Murshidabad police quarters.

53. Miss MIRA DATTA GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the circumstances under which the residential quarters and some offices of the Superintendent of Police, Murshidabad, were removed from Public Works Department buildings to some private owner's building at Berhampore;

(*ii*) the name of the officer during whose regime this removal took place; and

(*iii*) the name of the owner of the new premises?

(*b*) has there been any enhancement in the obligation of the department on account of rent and taxes as a result of such removal?

(*c*) If so, how much?

(*d*) What loss, if any, has the Public Works Department suffered as a consequence?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of throwing open the Public Works Department buildings to non-official tenants at competitive rents?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) The Communications and Works Department house allotted to the Superintendent of Police was not suitable for an officer of his status and as no other suitable Government quarters were available at the station a private house was hired for him. The accommodation for the District Intelligence Branch office was inadequate and room had to be found elsewhere.

(*ii*) Rai R. N. Banarji Bahadur

(*iii*) Babu Kamala Ranjan Ray.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Rs. 34-14-4 per mensem.

(*d*) While the quarters are unoccupied there is a loss of Rs. 64 per month. It is proposed to allot the house to more junior officers in which case it is expected that there will be no loss to Government as rent will be recovered from them.

(*e*) No.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

5—Salt.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before taking up discussion on Demand for Grant, I may say that if there is agreement between the Congress and the other Opposition groups as to the order of priority of members who should speak on their behalf, I would follow that, otherwise I will call the names as they stand in the list

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I drew your attention to rule 36 of the Assembly Rules and Standing Orders——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am looking into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: I beg to move on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor that a sum of Rs. 12,000 be granted under the provincial head "5– Salt" for the year 1939-40

Sir, the House may remember that two officers of the Forest and Excise Department were deputed to investigate in the Sunderbans whether salt could be manufactured there on a commercial scale and I assured the House that whatever was possible for this Government to do in regard to this matter would be done.

The Special Officers have recommended that a combined process of partial solar evaporation and boiling, as adopted in Burma, is suitable for the purpose and have selected an area of about 5,800 acres of land where a group of factories may be established in course of time capable of producing about 40 lakhs of maunds of salt, i.e., 50 per cent. of the total consumption of Bengal. They have also reported that there is an adequate supply of fuel which is required for the success of the manufacture by the Burma process

The recommendations of the Special Officers have been examined and the proposal for the establishment of an experimental salt factory in the Sunderbans at a non-recurring cost not exceeding Rs. 10,000 and a recurring cost not exceeding Rs. 2,000 per annum has been accepted. Necessary provision has accordingly been made in this budget. It has been decided that the establishment and running of the factory should be carried out by the Industries Department who have been requested to prepare a scheme in consultation with the Excise Commissioner.

The Government of India have decided that the administration of salt in Bengal should be taken over by them with effect from 1st April, 1939. A representation was made to the Government of India but they informed us that they are not prepared to reconsider the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards allotment of time I may say that in view of the fact that we shall have to finish 4 items to-day, I propose to allot one hour for "Salt" as it is an important subject, "Registration", one and one-half hour and the rest half an hour each.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about apathy of the Government to popularise salt industry in Bengal.

It is a matter of satisfaction to me that "salt" has been given the first place this year in the Budget Discussion of the Government of Bengal. Naturally it should be so, because salt happens to be the chief material for human consumption But the history of salt supply in Bengal is a lamentable one. Salt happened to be a bone of contention between the East India Company and Nawab Sirajuddowllah of Bengal. In the latter part of the Moghul period, the East India Company monopolised the salt supply and subsequently when Nawab Sirajuddowllah came to the throne he tried to impose tax on salt, and being unable to do so, he withdrew the tax from all the salt merchants, so that the Bengal merchants might prosper under conditions of free trade. Then a quarrel ensued and along with the question of salt some other questions arose and subsequently Nawab Sirajuddowllah was dethroned and the East India Company established their monopoly on salt along with their political supremacy. Now, Sir, after a short time the Indian salt was superseded by Liverpool salt and the Company enjoyed the monopoly of trade but subsequently other factors came in and the Hamburg and the Italian salt in their turn superseded the English salt in view of political considerations. In order to keep the Mediterranean route open the Italians were given preference in salt trade. Subsequently Italian merchants established their salt *golas* in Aden and in some portions of East Africa, and the salt manufacture of Bengal was killed second time. The other day a gentleman of the Pioneer Salt Company was showing me remnants of archaic vessels found in the Sunderbans where Malingas of Bengal used to prepare salt and even supplied to the Northern parts of India. This state of things went on for some time but the great German War gave us another kind of experience due to the disturbance in the sea route. The salt supply was threatened and the Government of India imposed some additional tax in 1931 on the import of salt in order to encourage salt industry in the provinces.

Taking advantage of these conditions, Bombay, Madras and even Burma—the maritime provinces of India—established their salt *golas* and became self-supporting, but unfortunately the Government of Bengal showed their apathy perhaps only to satisfy the Italian merchants of Aden. Now, Sir, as Government remained practically silent the industry did not grow in Bengal. Sometimes it was complained that the atmospheric condition of Bengal is not favourable for salt industry. I submit, Sir, this is only a lame excuse. Some experiments might have been made and scientific knowledge should have been explored in order to find out how to manufacture salt in Bengal. It is a lamentable thing indeed that although Bengal is open to sea from Midnapore to Cox's Bazar—hundreds and thousands of miles—not a single salt *gola* under the management of Government has yet been established. The Government of India supplied some money to the Government of Bengal from 1931 to 1938 for this purpose. From the budget of this year we find that in 1936 Government of India gave Rs. 6,000, in 1937-38 Rs. 5,000 and in 1938-39 Rs. 12,000. But the Government of Bengal misappropriated this amount and they did not even try to encourage the private enterprises.

Now, I began to look into politics as far back as the time when the Ghuznavis were in political ascendancy. At that time, "music before mosques" was the political slogan and now we find that "Islam in danger" is the political cry. These slogans could be invented for personal ends but for public purposes not even a single salt manufacturing centre was established.

In our Krishak Proja Party our ideal was to have *dal bhat*. This expression was invented by our erstwhile leader Mr. Fazlul Huq, to raise the ordinary standard of diet which was no doubt *nun bhat*, i.e., rice and salt. Unfortunately for us our erstwhile leader left our party and he is now piloting the ship of Khwaja-Suhrawardy Company under the banner of "Islam in danger" But in doing so he touched a very dangerous rock. He provoked the steel frame, i.e., the bureaucratic officers of the Government Night before last what a lamentable scene he showed. He seemed like a Hindu *sannyasi* imploring before his deity with folded hands with this distinction that he did not shave his head Even now I would request the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq that instead of degrading himself in that way, he should endeavour even now to encourage industries like salt in order to do away with unemployment and to make Bengal self-sufficient. With these words I move my motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I move that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "Grant No. 1—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of Government for resuscitation of the salt industry.

In doing so I would mainly confine myself to certain practical and constructive suggestions and I trust that the Government would give a patient hearing to me in the spirit that these suggestions are given. The history of the salt industry in Bengal, as you are all aware, is a painful history of the ruin of one of the most paying industries of the province. It is up to us to see how best we can re-establish that fruitful source of income to the province of Bengal. I must express some amount of gratification to find that the results of the investigation initiated by this Government last year, when two officers of Government made certain investigation into the possibility of the salt industry, have come out hopeful. I find from that report that the ban that Bengal is not in a position to economically manufacture salt has been lifted, and I am glad that to-day we find some ray of hope of having this industry re-established and of providing numerous fruitful sources of employment. But, Sir, I am afraid the Government have taken a long time to come to a decision just now mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister, and I am not yet sure that the decision announced, namely, starting of an experimental factory by the Government themselves will mature at an early date. I hope and trust that Government will expedite that as far as practicable. At least so far as the present budget provision is concerned it does not show that there is any real intention of starting a factory at least in the coming year. Otherwise the amount allotted would have been very much larger than Rs. 12,000 shown there. Any way, I find that there has been some amount of lack of imagination on the part of the Cabinet so far as the withdrawal of the privileges that were enjoyed by officers under the Government in the matter of controlling the preventive department of salt is concerned. I realise that it was a matter lying entirely in the hands of the Government of India, but possibly, if timely action was taken, the Government of India would be convinced even last year as to the desirability of permitting the preventive department and the development department of salt to be managed by the same set of officers, at least by the officers who knew the industry and its difficulties well enough. Any way, I feel that the matter is not yet finally closed, and the Government of Bengal would do well to pursue the question and again approach the Government of India to allow the preventive department to be controlled by this Government, so that they might even now continue valuable investigations as they have done in the past.

So far as the administration of the Salt Department is concerned, I feel that it is a move in the right direction that the administration of the proposed salt factory has been taken out of the Excise Department and has been proposed to be given over to the Industries Department. In doing so, I would submit that efficiency and merit only should be kept in view and regarded as the first and foremost principles to be followed in appointing officers in that department, because an experiment of this type could not be done by anybody selected on communal

or party lines. I hope and trust that Government will examine this proposition very carefully before permitting any official or any staff to handle a new experiment of this type.

The question of resuscitation of the salt industry has been engaging the attention of many different organisations in Bengal for the last few years—ever since the additional Salt Import Duty Act was passed in 1931. A number of private factories have been established and private firms have been trying to revive the salt industry. I would like the Government to examine their position, while the Government are going to have their own factory for experimental and demonstrative purposes. I would ask Government to carefully examine the position of those who are practically the pioneers of this industry. As a matter of fact they have been the pioneers at a great risk and what do Government propose to do for them? To-day, as you are all aware, due to the withdrawal of the additional Salt Import Duty Act from May last year we are noticing a very bad position, a very depressed condition in the salt market of Calcutta. The price of salt ex-ship had gone down from an average of Rs. 45 to an average of Rs. 27 and Rs. 28 and to-day it stands nearabout Rs. 30 or Rs. 31 only. That being the position, the first and foremost duty that the Government have to perform is to find out how to give sufficient succour to those manufacturers of salt who have spent a good amount of money and energy as pioneers of the industry. Otherwise Government should try to prevent the sale of imported, dumped salt at a price which is extremely low and I would say, does not cover even the freight from Aden to this place, the freight being about Rs. 25 to Rs. 27.

I have examined this proposition and I believe Government can help the industry in three different ways:

The first way is that which has been thought of by the Government, that is to have an experimental factory and to put into practical shape the suggestions given by the officers of Government who made valuable investigations of the Burma process as being very much more suited to the Sunderbans areas and to get salt produced economically, which could compete with products of other parts of India and of the world on equal grounds.

The second method of support which the Government ought to have thought of is the subsidy to those institutions which have been found to manufacture salt on approved lines for the last few years. For a few months—I should say practically for no appreciable period at all—subsidy was proposed to one firm, namely, the Chittagong Company, and that also could not be availed of by the company because of certain conditions which rendered the receipt of subsidy almost impossible. I submit there is nothing wrong for the province to encourage its own

industry by contributing something towards the costs by way of subsidy. To-day the total manufacture of salt in Bengal does not exceed 5,000 maunds a year. If we had paid a subsidy of 3 or 4 annas per maund even then the contribution would not have come to more than about Rs. 2,000 a year, and if we had continued that rate of subsidy for 5 years at least, then the total amount involved would not have exceeded one lakh of rupees making provision for expansions. I would ask Government to carefully examine this possibility. These factories were established at a time when the Government of India proposed to levy an import duty of 4 annas 6 pies per maund under the additional Salt Import Duty Act of 1931. That duty was subsequently reduced to 2 annas 6 pies and 1 anna 6 pies per maund and somehow or other these industries were getting along. But for the last few months when the price of salt ex-ship has come down to about Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 it is getting virtually impossible for these industries to stand on their own legs. It is the duty of the Government to reassure them that whatever may happen, their cost of production would be on the basis of a protection of 4/6 pies which the Government of India had provided in 1931 when some of these companies were started.

I would like to suggest one more thing that apart from the subsidy there is a possibility of encouraging the industry by investing some amount of Government money in some of those companies by contributing some shares of these companies, and also by liberally allowing licences for the manufacture of salt under conditions very favourable.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after what Dr. Sanyal has said I have very few things to tell this House about the salt industry. Sir, my motion stands thus:—

> "That the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100".

My object is to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant and the short-sighted policy of Government regarding revival and development of indigenous salt industry of Bengal.

Sir, my first submission is that the grant of Rs. 12,000 for an experimental factory is absolutely inadequate. From the report on the basis of which this grant has been demanded I find that the factory will be started on a 30 acres unit and the cost of production per 100 maunds has been estimated at Rs. 61-12. Now, may I ask the Hon'ble Minister, how can he get that salt sold in the present market when the ruling price to-day is about Rs. 30? Will that be a profitablle proposition? I don't think any further comment is necessary. Sir, I find from the detailed figures of the cost of manufacture

that labour cost per hundred maunds and the cost of fuel, etc., come up to Rs. 39 per hundred maunds, to which has to be added the cost of overhead charges and interest of Rs. 18-0-6. With that it comes up to Rs. 57-6 or Rs. 57. And if we add to this Rs. 57 the transit charges from the factory to Calcutta the cost per hundred maunds comes up to Rs. 61-12. Now if this experimental factory is run on a 30 acres unit, then certainly the cost of production of hundred maunds will be Rs. 61-12. That is the reason why I submit, Sir, that if Government want to have any experimental factory then they should run it on a bigger scale so that the overhead expenses and other incidental expenses may be reduced to bring down the costs. Sir, unless that is done it is apparent that this factory will be a losing concern and no benefit will be derived from this factory, directly or indirectly, by the industrialists who have started their firms elsewhere. Sir, apart from this question, I submit that there is no necessity for an experimental factory. Sufficient experiment has already been made by private firms at the cost of a few lakhs. Messrs. Mukherji and Rao have reported that they have found this experiment to have been successful in the case of the Bengal Salt Company, Limited, and the Chittagong Trading Union Limited. This is what is reported by them on page 55 of their report, paragraph 8: "In 1936, the experiment on condensation of brine according to the Burma method proved a success and 100 maunds of salt were produced. In 1937, only 300 maunds were produced. The price of coal having gone up, further manufacture was found to be unremunerative. In 1938, 647 maunds have been manufactured up to date and an extension of the factory has been made." Then with regard to the Chittagong Trading Union, Limited, it may be said that upon the report of Mr. Mukherji, the India Government were persuaded to make a grant of subsidy to that company, because Mr. Mukherji stated that it was possible for the Chittagong Trading Union Limited to manufacture salt according to the Burma method. So far as the question of experiment is concerned, it has been made and it has been successfully proved that salt can be manufactured commercially on the Burma method. With regard to solar evaporation method I need not raise any discussion because Government are not approving of that solar evaporation method probably on the misunderstanding that it will not succeed, although I have got proof that the solar evaporation method has also been found to be successful by the Pioneer Company, by the Bengal Salt Company, and many other companies to the satisfaction of experts. Still I will not raise that point because it is not necessary for the present purpose. But I submit that if Government really intend to develop the salt industry of Bengal then Government must come to the rescue of the private enterprisers who have already staked several lakhs of rupees in this industry. But how can Government do that? Government can do it in many ways. Dr. Sanyal has suggested that it can be done

in three ways. Sir, I would suggest that the first thing that Government should do is to put pressure upon the India Government to restore the protective duty which was initiated in 1931. Did not the Government know that it was because of the imposition of that import duty in 1931 that these Bengal enterprisers were encouraged to invest their money for the revival and development of the salt industry? I think Government knew it fully well because Government reaped the benefit of the import duty. The House will be surprised to learn that this Government was granted about Rs. 13 lakhs by the India Government out of that duty, with the express object of reviving and developing the salt industry of Bengal. As Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar has already told you the Government of Bengal instead of spending a single pie for the development of the salt industry in Bengal have criminally misappropriated the entire amount of the grant of Rs. 13 lakhs. Sir, according to the Government report I find that the cost of production per hundred maunds is Rs. 61-12 but since the imposition of the protective duty the price fell down to Rs. 56. In 1932-33 it was Rs. 56; in 1933-34 Rs. 45; in 1934-35 Rs. 47 and in 1938-39 Rs. 33. What did the Government do all these years in respect of the salt industrialists of Bengal? Had the Government any real intention to benefit these enterprisers who had already staked their money? They ought to have come to their rescue by giving them subsidy so as to make up the deficiency between the cost of production and the price that was ruling in Bengal. They did not do that. Even to-day if Government think seriously about this aspect of the case, they will find it their duty to extend their help to the Bengali enterprisers by way of grants of subsidy. I do not think Government need spend a single *cowrie* for the purpose of experiment. Then, Sir, that alone will not do. As I have already said, Government must rise to the occasion and put all pressure upon the Government of India to re-impose the additional protective duty. That duty, as Dr. Sanyal has informed the House, was annas 4 and 6 pies in 1931 which was latterly reduced to one anna and six pies in 1936-37, and ultimately it was withdrawn. Since then foreign salt is being imported into Bengal, and has almost crushed the salt industry of Bengal. Bengal is the only place where foreign salt is imported. In Bengal 140 lakhs of maunds of salt are imported, of which Bengal consumes 80 lakhs of maunds, and the rest is sent to Nepal, Assam, Orissa and certain parts of United Provinces. The report of Messrs. Mukherji and Rao establishes the fact that Bengal is capable of manufacturing her own salt. If Bengal is given an opportunity to manufacture 140 lakhs of maunds of salt, Bengal can save her own money to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs which she is now paying to outside manufacturers. Not only that, Bengal by manufacturing 140 lakhs of maunds of salt can give employment to 2 lakhs of people and maintain 2 lakhs of families. When Bengal has been found quite competent to manufacture salt not

only to meet her own need but also the needs of other provinces where salt is going from Bengal, Government should come out to help the enterprisers who have taken up the task of developing the salt industry of Bengal, with sufficient protective duty and subsidy.

(At this stage the member, having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the salt industry of Bengal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলার লবণ শিল্পের কথা বোঝতে গেলে সর্ব্বপ্রথমে মনে পড়ে—আমরা মানুষ। আমাদের যেমন প্রত্যেক দিন ডালভাতের দরকার, তেম্নি আমাদের প্রত্যেক দিন লবণেরও দরকার। আজ এই যে দরকারী জিনিষ, যা নাকি বাংলাদেশের বহুস্থানে আছে—যা নাকি বাংলায় তৈরী করা যায়, অথচ আজ আমাদের এম্নি দুর্ভাগ্য যে সেই অতিমাত্র দরকারী জিনিষ লবণের জন্য সব সময় আমাদের বিদেশের দিকে তাকিয়ে থাক্‌তে হয়। আজ এই যে আমাদের বাংলাদেশ, যে বাংলাদেশের লোক দুঃখ, দুর্দ্দশা এবং অনাহারে ম'র্‌তে ব'সেছে, যদি সেই দেশের দিকে লক্ষ্য করা যায় তাহলে সহজেই বোঝা যাবে যে এই লবণ শিল্পটাকে যদি পুনরুদ্ধার করা হ'ত তাহলে দেশকে এই দুর্দ্দশা থেকে অনেকটা বাঁচানো যেত। আমি খুলনা এবং ২৪-পরগণার দক্ষিণাংশ সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলের বিষয় যা জানি, সেখানে চাষের এমন কতকগুলি অসুবিধা ও বাধা আছে যার জন্য প্রত্যেক বছর নিয়মিত চাষ আবাদ হয় না। এবং নিয়মিত চাষ হয় না বোলে সেখানকার কৃষকদের এবং তাদের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে অন্য ব্যবসায়ী লোকদেরও প্রায় মাঝে মাঝেই দুর্ভিক্ষের করাল কবলে পোড়্‌তে হয়। সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলে চাষের জমিগুলিকে লোণা জলের হাত থেকে রক্ষা করার জন্য গায়ের রক্ত জল কোরে বাঁধ দিতে হয়। লোণা জলকে রক্ষা ক'র্‌তে অযথা ব্যয় ক'র্‌তে হয়। সেখানে এমন যে স্বাভাবিক উপায়ে প্রাপ্ত জল যে জল জমাল দিলেই প্রত্যেক লোকের প্রতিদিনের দরকারী লবণ অনায়াসে তৈরী হোতে পারে, সেখানকার লোকদের সেই সহজে লবণ তৈরী করার সুযোগ না দেওয়ায়, যে বৎসর চাষ না হয় এবং সেখানকার একমাত্র ফসল ধান, তা উৎপন্ন না হয় তাহলেই দেখা যায় যে সেখানকার লোকেরা অনাহারে থাকে। সেইজন্য আমি বোল্‌তে চাই সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলে প্রতি থানায় Salt Factory করা হউক— —

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: Sir, I have carefully and patiently listened to all the members who have spoken on the salt industry of Bengal. I am glad Dr. Sanyal has appreciated the action of the Government so far as they have been able to do with regard to salt industry. I am sure, he will also appreciate that Government have adopted the right line. Many salt factories have cropped up in Bengal, but so far they have not given any appreciable results. Government are going to start these experimental factories in order to show them as to how a factory should be run in a businesslike way. So far as the adequacy of the grant of Rs. 12,000 is concerned, let me assure the House that, if possible, Government will be prepared to increase the grant when required.

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, moved by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt", moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikat, was then put and agreed to.

At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.

(*After adjournment.*)

9—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,33,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps".

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,33,000 under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a debate regarding the mercenary policy of the Government in the matter of stamp duties.

Stamp Duty সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্টের যা policy সে বিষয়ে আমার বক্তব্য অতি অল্পই আছে। আপনারা তো সবাই জানেন যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁদের stamp duty নিয়ে কিরকম কাণ্ডকারখানা কোরছেন, তাই এসম্বন্ধে আমার বেশী কিছু বলার প্রয়োজন নাই। আপনাদের ভেতর যাদের দেশের লোকের সঙ্গে ভালোভাবে মেলবার সুযোগ আছে তারাই জানেন যে গরীব লোকদের আজ কি দুরবস্থা হোয়েছে। অথচ গভর্ণমেণ্টের নীতি হচ্ছে গরীবদের উপর যতরকমে সম্ভব ট্যাক্স ধরা। এবং সেইজন্য আমাদের এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রতি অধিকাংশ লোকই অসন্তুষ্ট। এঁদের policy হচ্ছে গরীবদের মারা,—কি কোরে গরীবদের পীড়ণ কোরে বড় লোকদের সুবিধা করা যায় সেই policy ই এদের সর্বত্র অনুসরণ কোরতে দেখা যায়। সাধ্যাতীত মূল্য না দিলে গরীবেরা গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট বিচার পাইতে পারে না। আপনারা সকলেই জানেন, যাঁরা বড়লোক তাঁরা গরীবদের কি রকম অত্যাচার কোরে থাকেন, এবং গরীবদের সেই অত্যাচারের প্রতিকারের জন্য কোর্টে যেতে হয়। কোর্টে গেলেই stamp এর দরকার। কিন্তু stamp এর পরিমাণ সেখানে এমন উচ্চহারে বেঁধে রাখা হয়েছে যে তার ফলে অনেক লোকই সেই নির্দ্দিষ্ট পরিমাণ ষ্ট্যাম্প দিয়ে সেখানে প্রতিকার পাওয়ার দরখাস্ত দিতে পারে না। কাজেই তাদের অত্যাচার সহ্য করা ছাড়া আর উপায় থাকে না। আর যদিও বা কোনরকমে কোর্টে যেতে সাহস পায় তবে বড় লোকেরা—তাদের এমনভাবে ঘোরাঘুরি করাতে থাকেন যার ফলে ষ্ট্যাম্পের দাম দিয়ে তারা এতটা হয়রান হয় যে একবার কোর্টে যদিও যায় ভবিষ্যতে আর যেতে সাহসী হয় না। সুতরাং গভর্ণমেণ্ট বড় লোকদের সুবিধার জন্য

এবং গরীবেরা যাতে সে সুবিধা না নিতে পারে সেইভাবে যে stamp duty বসিয়েছেন, সেটা অত্যন্ত অন্যায়। গরীব মেরে উচ্চ বেতনের কর্ম্মচারী পোষা এবং বাজে কাজে টাকা নিয়ে ছিনিমিনি খেলা হয়েছে গভর্ণমেণ্টের নীতি। তারপরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আর একটা ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন Debt Settlement Board এদেশে স্থাপন কোরে। (The Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker: গরীবের সর্ব্বনাশ কোরেছেন।) Debt Settlement Board এর দ্বারা গরীবের যে কি সর্ব্বনাশ হচ্ছে—গরীবেরা যে কিভাবে মোরছে, সেটা আপনারা যাঁরা বুড়ীলোক, নাদুস্ নুদুস্ চেহারা, তাঁরা পল্লীগ্রামের সেই সব লোক যারা খেতে পাচ্ছে না, যারা আজ অর্দ্ধনগ্ন বুভুক্ষিত, তাদের অবস্থা কি কোরে বুঝবেন? কাজেই আপনাদের বোঝানোর চেষ্টা করা বৃথা। আমি মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়কে বোলছি—তিনি যদি ভাল করে, বিষয়টা গরীব লোকদের প্রতিনিধিবর্গকে বোঝাবার সুযোগ দেন, তাহলে আমার বিশ্বাস যে দেশের লোকের কিছু উপকার হবে। আমরা জানি যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট চোলবে—ততদিন পর্য্যন্ত গরীবদের কোন সুবিধা হবে না, তাদের দুর্দ্দশাও মোচন হবে না। কাজেই তারা নিজেরা ছাড়া তাদের দুঃখ কেউ বোঝে না। এবং যখন এই বুভুক্ষিত, অর্দ্ধনগ্ন জনসমাজ জেগে উঠবে, যখন তারা নিজের হাতে এই অত্যাচারের প্রতিকারের জন্য সঙ্ঘবদ্ধ হোয়ে অত্যাচারীর হাত থেকে সমস্ত ক্ষমতা ছিনিয়ে নিয়ে অত্যাচারীর যা শাস্তি সেটা বিধান কোরবে—তখন এর প্রতিকার হবে। একথা আমরা জানি, গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি না জানেন তবে এখন থেকে জেনে রাখুন। Debt Settlement Board এ দরখাস্ত করার সময় সেখানে কোর্ট ফি দিয়ে দরখাস্তের ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন। তারপর সেখানে award যা দেওয়া হয় সে অনুসারে যদি টাকা আদায় না হয়—তাহলে মহাজনকে পুনরায় *ad valorem* কোর্ট ফি দিয়ে দরখাস্ত দিতে হবে। কিন্তু সে কোর্ট ফি শেষটায় আদায় হবে খাতকের উপর দিয়ে। এইসকল অত্যাচারের ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্টের ঋণ-সালিশী বোর্ডের দ্বারা গরীব পল্লীবাসীদের উপর প্রতিনিয়ত অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে। Finance Minister মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি দারিদ্র্য কাহাকে বলে তিনি আজ জানেন কি? যদি তিনি তাঁর রাজভবনের প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করেন তাহলে তিনি বোধ করি কতকটা বুঝতে পারবেন যে দারিদ্র্যের সমস্যা কি ভীষণ! কি তীব্র!! ভাগ্যবানের দয়ায় তিনি আজ ঐশ্বর্য্যের ক্রোড়ে বোসে অনেক কিছু সুখের ও শান্তির স্বপ্ন দেখছেন এবং অনেক কিছু ভোগ উপভোগ করছেন। (The Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker তিনি যখন দিয়েছেন তখন আমি আর কি কোরবো!) কিন্তু যারা নাকি তাঁর মত সৌভাগ্যশালী হোতে পারে নাই তাদের অবস্থা যে কি সেটা যদি তিনি তাঁর সেই রাজভবনের প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত কোরে স্থির চিত্তে বিবেচনা করেন তাহলে হয় তো বুঝবেন। আমাদের প্রধান মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ও সেইভাবে দেশের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের ডাল-ভাতের ব্যবস্থা কোরবেন বোলে দাঁড়িয়েছিলেন কিন্তু নিজের এবং সহযোগীদের ঘি-ভাতের ব্যবস্থা হওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে গরীবদের প্রতি তাঁর প্রতিশ্রুতি সব ভুলে গেছেন। এখন নিজে লোভও কোম্মার নিমন্ত্রিত থেকে যদি দেশের লোকের ডাল ভাতের কথা ভুলে যান তাহলে প্রতিশ্রুতি ভঙ্গের কৈফিয়ৎ নিশ্চয়ই একদিন দেশের লোককে দিতে হবে। দেশের জনসাধারণ বড় লোকের অত্যাচারে যখন জর্জ্জরিত হয়, সেই অত্যাচারের প্রতিকার পাওয়ার উপায় হ'তে পারে—এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের ব্যবস্থা অনুসারে উচ্চহারে stamp duty দিয়ে, যারা গরীবদের সাধ্যাতীত। কাজেই গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই stamp duty অত্যন্ত জঘন্য, অতি ভীষণ ও অত্যাচারমূলক, এর প্রতিকার আশু আবশ্যক। আজ এখানে জনসাধারণের দাবি নিয়ে অনেকেই এসেছেন, আবার অনেকেই চা খাঁসেন নাই। যারা সমর্থন পেয়েছেন তারাও জনসাধারণের ভোট নিয়েই এসেছেন। তাই তাঁদের কাছে প্রার্থনা কোরছি—তাঁরা যেন আমার এই কথাগুলির প্রতি কর্ণপাত করেন। আমি House এর নিকট প্রার্থনা কোরছি—গভর্ণমেণ্টের যাতে সুমতি হয়, সেইভাবে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সকলে চাপ দিন; যার ফলে এই দরিদ্র দমননীতির শেষ হোয়ে—দরিদ্রের সংরক্ষণনীতি গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ত্তৃক গৃহীত হয়।

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,33,000 under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a debate regarding the failure of the Government to take legislative measures to decrease the value of stamps and court-fees. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the court-fees and fees on stamps were much lower before 1922. Since then, by an amendment of the Act, these have been increased considerably. Before 1922, the condition of the country was much better but since then the condition has been worsening, as has been said by many speakers in this House, and it is needless to stress the distress the country is undergoing at the present moment. As has been pointed out, this court-fee, although paid at the first instance by the zemindars, traders and *mahajans*, has ultimately to be paid by the debtors, and it tells very heavily upon them. The cultivators form more than 90 per cent. of the population of Bengal and instead of providing ameliorative measures for them, the Hon'ble Ministers are increasing the burden of taxation and no steps are being taken by them at all to ameliorate their condition. Under the Agricultural Debtors Act, the debtors, of course, have to pay, at the first instance, a small court-fee but now rules have been framed under the Act by which *ad valorem* fee is realised by certificate officers in realising awarded debts. This also tells very heavily on the poor cultivators, and this measure should not have been adopted by Government at the present moment. The income of Bengal is not inconsiderable. The two awards—the Meston award and the Niemyer award —have been draining away the major portion of the money of the province to other provinces. The Hon'ble Ministers are not taking any steps to keep the money within the province. I find that they are not taking any measure to keep the court-fees and fees on stamps at a low figure. We expect that considering the pitiable condition of the people of the province, the Hon'ble Ministers will take some steps to ameliorate the condition of the people by lessening the fees on stamps and court-fees.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, I beg leave to move that the demand of Rs. 4,33,000 under the head "9—Stamps"——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it would be better if members of the Coalition Group will kindly not move their cut motions. They may speak generally. This practice was also followed last year. I will give them full opportunity to speak at the time when their turn comes but it would be preferable if they do not move them now. Of course, I cannot insist upon it.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Well, Sir, I shall discuss on the motion. To discuss it, I beg to draw your attention to the receipt and expenditure side under the head "Stamps". The budget estimate for 1939-40 on receipt side on account of Non-judicial Stamps is

Rs. 71,00,000 and Judicial Stamps Rs. 1,85,00,000, the total net receipts amounting to Rs. 2,56,00,000 and on the expenditure side for the same year Rs. 2,16,000——

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir. সভাপতি মহাশয়, সদস্য মহাশয় কি নূতন motion move কোরছেন, না যে motion টা moved হয়েছে সেইটা support কোরছেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: He is not moving. I hold, as I said last year, that it is not in constitutional propriety that a member of the party supporting the Government should move a cut motion unless of course he is determined to throw the Government out. The constitutional procedure which is being followed not only in this province but also in other provinces is that members of the Government party are free to speak but they do not move cut motions.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: As I was saying on the expenditure side, Rs. 2,16,000 and Rs. 2,17,000, respectively, amounting in all to Rs. 4,33,000, has been estimated.

Now, Sir, it is needless to mention that these duties are realised from almost all the public in some form or other, whether they be rich or poor, debtors or creditors, professional men or non-professional men, litigants or non-litigants and so on. However, I do not mean by this that taxation in the form of stamps is wrong. What I mean to protest against is the high rate of Judicial and Non-judicial Stamps which is highly exorbitant, as these were enhanced by 50 per cent. in the year 1922 and then also again in the year 1935. What are the actual circumstances of the majority of the people of our country—undoubtedly awfully bad. In our country where majority of the people, being cultivators cannot procure meals twice a day and pass their days half-starved or starved, half-naked or naked, where Government still spend the public money indiscriminately right and left like the old bureaucratic Government—I do not find any justifiable grounds to stick to the old policy of realising such exorbitant rates from the public on Judicial and Non-judicial Stamps. This has really been a great hardship on the people.

As the present Government of the people has been formed by the people and for the people, so I most seriously press the Government to change its angle of vision—to redress the grievances of the people by minimising the high rate of Judicial and Non-judicial Stamps in consideration of the general economic depression and poverty of a great majority of the population. The policy of imposing and realising stamp duty by Debt Settlement Boards has also been improper and inequitable. With these words, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion moved by Babu Rasik Lal Biswas. I expected that the honourable member in initiating the debate on behalf of the Opposition would really criticise the policy of Government. In his notice of motion he says that it is "to raise a discussion about mercenary policy of the Government in the matter of Stamp duties". I was thoroughly disappointed. He simply made a general attack on Government and the gravamen of his charge was that this Government constituted as it is cannot feel for the poor. So it must go out of office and probably he suggested that it should make room for Babu Rasik Lal Biswas and his friends.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Admirers!

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes. I need hardly say that this Government yield to none in their sympathy for the poor. I have yet to learn that by reducing the rate of court-fees and making litigation cheap Government will be really helping the poor in solving their economic problem. It is an admitted fact that litigation is an evil of our life and it has ruined many families. The less we indulge in litigation the better for us all of course except for the lawyers.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: You were once a lawyer.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I maintain, Sir, that there is no justification for suggesting that the present Government is in any way responsible for increasing the rate of court-fees or stamp duty. I will request the House to remember that the first amendment of the Stamp Duties and Court-fees Acts was made as early as 1922 in order to meet the deficit with which the province was faced on the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

The next increase was in 1935. In 1935 we simply increased the court-fees on the lines of other provinces. In fact the increase that was effected in other provinces, i.e., in Madras, in Bombay, in the United Provinces and in Bihar, as early as 1922, was effected in Bengal only in 1935. I hold in my hand comparative figures which clearly show that it was only in 1935 that Sir John Woodhead introduced his Bill to amend the Stamp Act and the Court-fees Act and just to increase the rates in order to bring them into line with those of other provinces. The House will also remember that the Government of India promised to help this Government financially by giving 50 per cent. of the jute duty and some other taxes only on condition that the Government of Bengal and the Bengal Legislature did their best to retrench and to increase their revenues. So it was on that condition that this Government received those additional revenues and the Government of Sir John

Anderson thought that it was their bounden duty to do all they could to cut down the expenditure. The expenditure was cut down to the extent, speaking from memory, of about Rs. 90 lakhs and Government imposed five duties including electricity, tobacco, court-fees, and what else I now forget, just to make the Government of Bengal eligible to the additional financial grant that was offered by the Government of India.

Mr. SPEAKER: As we will have to close I hope you will conclude.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: We are all convinced!

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir

As regards the argument that the poor will be hit there is absolutely no substance in that contention. Sir John Woodhead in opposing a similar motion by Mr. N. K. Basu said, "Mr. N. K. Basu who I notice is not present now said that the stamp duty will affect only the poor men". Well, Sir, I shall go through them. First of all comes an agreement or memorandum of agreement relating to the sale of bill of exchange—that does not affect the poor man. Secondly, the appraisement of valuation in the course of——

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you conclude, Sir Bijoy?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I am sorry, Sir.

With these words I oppose this amendment and in concluding my observation I repeat that the arguments advanced by Babu Rasik Lal Biswas are absolutely baseless and illogical.

The motion of Babu Rasik Lal Biswas that the demand of Rs. 4,33,000 under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abul Fazl that the demand of Rs. 4,33,000 under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion that a sum of Rs. 4,33,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" was then put and agreed to.

10—Forest.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 12,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest".

In moving for the grant it may not be out of place to make a statement of the more important activities in the administration of the Forest Department.

Since the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, fresh recruitment to the Indian Forest Service has ceased. Arrangements have now been almost completed to form the high Provincial Service from which the superior posts in the Department will in future be filled. This Government have participated in the scheme evolved by the Government of India in consultation with the provinces to secure uniformity in the training of recruits to the Higher Provincial Forest Service which is formed to replace the Indian Forest Service. Two candidates selected in consultation with the Public Services Commission have accordingly been deputed from this province for training at the Forest Research Institute and College at Dehra-Dun, with a view to their appointment to the new service.

In my speech in this House on 4th September, 1937, an account was given of the evils resulting from the gradual disappearance of the forests in Western Bengal. These evils are, in the main, soil erosion, decrease in fertility of the soil and frequent visitation of floods and drought. It is clearly a matter of great public importance that measures should be taken to preserve what is left of these forests. A representative committee of officials and non-officials has therefore been appointed to investigate the facts and to make recommendations to Government as to the remedies which should be applied to prevent this grave threat to the prosperity of the countryside. The area of the enquiry will comprise the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Midnapore. The work of the committee is well under way and it is hoped that they will be able to conclude their labours and furnish Government with their findings in the course of the next two or three months.

In accordance with the policy of Government to conserve all valuable forests as far as possible, whether publicly or privately owned, they have been continuing to manage certain private forests in East Bengal by agreement with, and at the request of the owners.

The report of the officer of the Bengal Forest Service who was deputed to investigate into the possibilities of afforestation in the district of Nadia and other adjoining districts has since been received and is under the consideration of Government.

As the House is aware, preservation of wild life is an integral part of the administration of the Forest Department. This Government have already agreed to adhere to the Draft All-India Convention that has been drawn up on the basis of a resolution adopted at an All-India Conference for the preservation of fauna in this country. Pending actual conclusion of the Draft All-India Convention, this Government have undertaken the examination of the more urgent measures proposed

therein. Important changes of law, by way of amendment of the Wild Birds and Animals Preservation Act, 1912, are under consideration to tighten up the control over the destruction of fauna, particularly bird life, in this province. Pending formulation of specific legislative measures, game sanctuaries are being formed under the existing provisions of the Indian Forest Act and the rules thereunder, in so far as opportunity and circumstances permit. The formation of a game preservation division to control the sanctuaries is also engaging the attention of Government.

In my last Budget speech I dealt at some length with the question of management of khas mahal forests in Chittagong and mentioned the preliminary measures taken to meet the grievances of the tenants. Government are now in possession of all the facts and have been devoting their most anxious consideration to the expediency and desirability of further measures in that direction.

The House is well aware of the policy in which this province has been persevering for some years past to explore the possibilities of the indigenous manufacture of salt. In pursuance of that policy, and as a result of the recent investigations conducted by two experienced officers of the Forest and Excise Departments, it has been decided to set up an experimental factory to demonstrate the possibilities of manufacture of salt on a commercial scale in the Sunderbans. This scheme, if successful, will hold out the prospect of some handsome revenue to the Forest Department to be derived from supplies of fuel required for the manufacture of salt.

I would now pass on to an explanation of the more important items of new expenditure included in the next year's budget. These are—

(1) Provision of a reserve for financing unforeseen schemes of an immediately remunerative character.

Not infrequently opportunities come to the Forest Department to take up urgent unforeseen orders from railways and other commercial bodies for supply of timber at very short notice. The timber has to be removed by departmental agencies in such cases and one must move quickly to keep the time of the contract. The unavoidable delay entailed in the application for additional funds required for the execution of a new contract like this often deprives the department of the chance of securing it. The Forest Department is run on commercial lines and can ill afford to lose such chances of netting in some good additional revenue. As ready money is required for immediate execution of orders, it is proposed to provide as an experiment a non-recurring reserve of Rs. 25,000 to be administered by Government to enable the department to execute all short-notice orders.

(2) Purchase of a 45 H.P. Diesel Tractor for departmental timber operations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Forest Division.

The upper storeys of timber in the Kasalong Reserve Forest, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were definitely over-mature and the waste of old timber has been great. In the absence of roads for bringing down the timber, traders being very few and labour being very scarce and of poor quality, only a few of the better trees close to the bank of rivers had been removed. With a view to carry on mechanical logging of timber a tractor with necessary equipment was purchased in 1932. The tractor, apart from being unsuitable is now almost worn out and it is proposed to purchase a 45 H.P. Diesel Tractor at a cost of Rs. 19,000 in replacement of the old tractor for Rs. 2,000 and to raise the pay of the tractor operator from Rs. 60 to Rs. 75 per mensem and his bonus maximum from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per mensem.

(3) Metalling the central compartment line road from Mendabari to the Satali-Patlakhawa Road, Buxa Division.

With a view to provide greater facility for the extraction of timber at a less cost, it is proposed to metal the central compartment line road from Mendabari to the Satali-Patlakhawa Road in the Buxa Division at a cost of Rs. 25,800. It is reported that extraction from clear felling areas gives heavy traffic over the road year after year with the result that the road sustains severe damage and is invariably closed against all traffic in the rains, though for facility of extraction it is desirable to keep it passable throughout the year. The scheme when worked out, will yield a minimum increase of revenue of Rs. 2,300 per annum; the closure of the existing kutcha road through damage is liable to entail a loss up to Rs. 4,600.

(4) Conversion of six miles of the Manibhanjang-Batasi bridle path into a cart road in the Darjeeling Division.

It is considered essentially necessary to convert 9 miles of the Manibhanjang-Batasi bridle path into a cart road in order to open up the Tonglu Range for the extraction of timber and fuel and to cope with the growing demand for fuel in Darjeeling and surrounding villages. The scheme when fully worked out is expected to produce an increase of revenue to the extent of Rs. 13,000 per annum. Sanction has already been accorded to the conversion of the first three miles of the bridle path into a cart road at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,000. It is now proposed to undertake similar conversion of the remaining 6 miles at an estimated cost of Rs. 28,000 to be spread over two years.

With these words, Sir, I commend the grant for consideration of the House.

Mr. BIRENDRA NATH MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the demand of Rs. 12,78,000 under the head "Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the ever-increasing cost of the administration. The more one looks into the department, the more he has to lose himself in the gloom of the forests. In 1937

the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest Department said that a mishandling of this department was likely to cause or convert the country into a desert during the dry season and to devastate the land by floods during the rainy season. If that be the true criteria of the able management of this department I would just like to make a present of West Bengal to the Hon'ble Minister during the dry season and of North and East Bengal during the rainy season. And if the Hon'ble Minister feels any reason for consolation or congratulation in this, I hope he will have it in abundance. Another thing which has also been indicated to-day is that this being a productive department it should be run in a businesslike manner.

Well, Sir, I am just giving you an idea of the businesslike manner in which this department is being run. During the year 1939-40 there is a net income shown in the budget of approximately Rs. 4 lakhs. We know that there are about 12,000 square miles of forests in Bengal. Taking this into account, the magnificent way in which the whole department is being run, is a net profit of Rs. 33 per square mile of Bengal's forests. If this again is a matter for congratulation to the Hon'ble Minister and the Government, they will have it.

Then, Sir, there is a special feature of this department which is this —that the charged amount of the expenditure far outbids in comparison with the voted amount. Like the reserved forests it is also reserved for some of the war officers. Of the superior officers one will find that there are as many as 10 Europeans. Of these 10 Europeans again, 8 have the qualification of war service, and this department is being kept for the benefit of these gentlemen who have returned from the war.

In dealing with the details of this department I will just read one sentence from one, far greater than myself, in his unregenerate days. The sentence runs thus—if a new settlement should again increase our resources, I dare say that Government will readily find more than one costly scheme of benefit only to their protegés or avail it only to tighten their grip over our people, to sponge away the money as they can. The millions will be left to their wretchedness and penury.

Sir, I am just trying to show how this has been exemplified in this particular case. Now, considering the yearly income and expenditure of this department I shall just begin by saying that in the year 1900 there was a surplus of Rs. 6 lakhs, the income being Rs. 11 lakhs, as against an expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs. In the year 1909 there was a surplus of Rs. 8 lakhs, the income being Rs. 6 lakhs and expenditure Rs. 8 lakhs. Then we come to the unfortunate year 1925 when the revenue yield from the department rose to Rs. 29 lakhs with a surplus of Rs. 16 lakhs. I call this year an unfortunate year because as soon as there was this surplus of Rs. 16 lakhs, according to that opinion which I have just quoted, the Government thought of some costly scheme to eat up the surplus; and the scheme was that after the

year 1925 when they found that they had a surplus of Rs. 16 lakhs the whole forest area should be divided into two circles—north and south —each under one Conservator, though prior to that year the department was run by one Conservator. Therefore, there were to be two Conservators with two establishments under them. This was effected in the year 1929. In that year, the income was Rs. 31 lakhs against an expenditure of Rs. 15½ lakhs with a surplus of Rs. 15½ lakhs. Now, as soon as the second Conservator was appointed, what was the immediate effect? The immediate effect of this appointment was that in the year 1930 the revenue fell from Rs. 31 lakhs to Rs. 23 lakhs and the surplus to Rs. 7,82,000. And then at last in the year 1931 the surplus fell to Rs. 1,64,000; in 1932, to Rs. 83,000, and in 1933 to only Rs. 61,000. We all know that a Retrenchment Committee was appointed and commenced work in the year 1932. That Retrenchment Committee went into evidence and after consideration of all the facts placed before them they came to the unanimous conclusion that the expenditure might be reduced by Rs. 2,71,000.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. L. M. CROSFIELD: Sir, on behalf of the European Party I beg to oppose the cut motion. I do not consider that the forests have been extravagantly managed, as has been suggested, nor do I agree that the relations of this department with the public are unsatisfactory, as has been suggested. From my own observation in the forest areas of Chittagong I can say that I found most satisfactory relations between the Forest Department and the public. I had clear evidence of co-operation and mutual trust and esteem. I have no reason to think that things are otherwise elsewhere.

The meetings with the Forest Officers at which I was present were friendly and helpful, and I commend the department's policy in having such frank discussions with the people in the forest areas.

But, Sir, if in the past corruption has existed, I believe, it has been due to the policy of having a large proportion of temporary subordinate staff. To place men in positions of power and authority far from supervision on a salary of Rs. 30 per month on temporary appointments with no prospects and no pension is to lead them into temptation.

Sir, though I believe that the vigorous measures taken by the department have very largely stamped out corruption, I strongly recommend as an additional safeguard and in fairness to the men that this temporary staff should be made permanent and that supervision which was drastically reduced during the years of depression should be restored.

In Chittagong, Sir, there is, however, dissatisfaction with rates for forest produce. I believe this to be unjustified. These rates are

lower than anywhere else in the province and, with a few minor exceptions, which, I understand, Government have under consideration, I feel strongly that these rates should be unchanged.

If they were further reduced, it is certain that the rate of extraction of essential commodities as firewood and bamboos would exceed the rate of growth. This could only lead to a serious shortage and to irretrievable damage to a national asset, which it is our duty to preserve.

The disafforestation which would result would also lead to denudation and consequently to serious damage to surrounding agricultural land and to waterways.

Though I have no doubt that Government will consider sympathetically the release of small forest areas for grazing when this can safely be done, I must however emphasize the dangers of throwing open large areas of protected forest indiscriminately.

I, therefore, hope that Government will stand firmly against any such proposals which would have disastrous effects on the countryside in general. And I also hope further that a policy of reafforestation will be adopted throughout the province to deal with the widespread soil erosion which is assuming alarming proportions.

With these words, Sir, I beg to oppose the cut motion.

Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: ১৭নং মোসন্ যাহা সৈয়দ জালালুদ্দিন হাসেমির নামে আছে আমি মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়ের অনুমতিক্রমে তাহা উপস্থিত করিতেছি। মাননীয় বনবিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ঐ বিভাগের ব্যয় নির্ব্বাহার্থে ১২,৭৮,০০০৲ টাকা ডিমাণ্ড করিয়াছেন। আমি ঐ বিভাগের অনাচার অত্যাচারের আলোচনার জন্য তাহার মধ্য হইতে একশত টাকা cut করিবার জন্য প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করিতেছি।

বনবিভাগের অনাচার, অত্যাচার ও উৎপীড়ণ সম্বন্ধে গত দুই বৎসর হইতে বহু আলোচনা ও সমালোচনা হইয়া আসিতেছে। কিন্তু পরিতাপের বিষয় এই যে, উহার প্রতিকারকল্পে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বা গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন রকম দৃষ্টি আকৃষ্ট হইয়াছে বলিয়া প্রমাণ আমরা পাই নাই। এই বনবিভাগের অনাচার সম্বন্ধে আমি কয়েকটী দৃষ্টান্ত হাউসের সম্মুখে উপস্থিত করিতেছি। পার্ব্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম হইতে বহু প্রকারের বনজ দ্রব্যাদি চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরে ও চট্টগ্রাম town এ আমদানি হইয়া থাকে। ইহার মধ্যে কার্পাস, নানা প্রকারের কাঠ, ছন, বাঁশ ও বহু রকমের শস্য আমদানি হইয়া থাকে। চন্দ্রকোনা ষ্টেশনের উপর ৩টী টোল ষ্টেশন আছে। যারা কার্পাস আমদানি করে তাদের প্রথম টোল ষ্টেশনে বাস্কেট প্রতি এক পয়সা হিসাবে টোল দিতে হয়, আর এক পয়সা দিতে হয় Forest বিভাগের নজরানা বা উৎকোচ। তারপর যে যে টোল ষ্টেশনে যাইবে তাতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট duty বা charge দিতে হয় না, কিন্তু Forest বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারীদের যা প্রাপ্য সেটা বাস্কেট প্রতি এক পয়সা দিতেই হয়। চন্দ্রকোনা ষ্টেশনে আসিলে সেখানেও গভর্ণমেণ্টকে কোনরূপ টোলচার্জ দিতে হয় না, কিন্তু তবু বাস্কেট প্রতি এক পয়সা করিয়া কর্ম্মচারীদের প্রাপ্য আদায় করিয়া নেওয়া হয়। উহা না দিলে hill tract হইতে কার্পাস আমদানি করিবার কোন উপায় নাই। ইহাতে আমরা স্পষ্টই বুঝিতে পারিতেছি যে, যে মার্চেণ্ট এক হাজার বাস্কেট কার্পাস আমদানি করিবে তাহাকে duty দিতে হইবে ৫ হিসাবে ১৫৷৷৴ কিন্তু উৎকোচ দিতে হইবে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ম্মচারীদের ৩গুণ ৬২৷৷৹

টাকা। এই রকমের অনাচার অত্যাচার চলিয়া আসিতেছে বৎসরের পর বৎসর, মাসের পর মাস, এবং এই সব অত্যাচারের কথা কর্তৃপক্ষের গোচরীভূত করা সত্ত্বেও কোন প্রতিকার হইতেছে না। গত দুই বৎসর যাবৎ আন্দোলন চলিতেছে, মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে স্বয়ং যাইয়া বিষয়টী প্রত্যক্ষ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইয়াছিল। সৌভাগ্যক্রমে কিম্বা দুর্ভাগ্যক্রমে জানি না Forest বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয় গত বর্ষে একবার চট্টগ্রামে পদার্পণ করিয়াছিলেন। কিন্তু তিনি তাঁহার চট্টগ্রাম ভ্রমণের বিষয় স্থানীয় M. L. A. দিগকে কিছু জানাইয়াছিলেন বলিয়া আমরা অবগত নাই। আমরা যে সকল অভিযোগ করিয়া আসিতেছি উহার প্রমাণ উপস্থিত করিবার জন্য আমরা প্রস্তুত ছিলাম, কিন্তু দুঃখের সঙ্গে জানাইতেছি যে, তিনি এই হাউসের কোন স্থানীয় মেম্বরকে তাঁহার সঙ্গে দেখা করার জন্য বা প্রমাণ উপস্থিত করার জন্য আহ্বান করেন নাই। কেন তিনি এরূপ করিলেন জানিনা। যারা লাইসেন্স লইয়াও টোল চার্জ দিয়ে ছন কাটে, বাঁশ কাটে এবং অন্যান্য বনজাত দ্রব্যাদি আনিয়া বাজারে বিক্রয় করে, তাহারা Forest সীমার বাইরের হাটে যদি যায় সেখানেও তাহাদের ধরা হয়। সেখানে তাদের লাইসেন্সের দরকার হয় না, তথাপি তাহাদের নিকট হইতে জোর করিয়া উৎকোচ আদায় করা হয়। পূর্বে বারো আনার লাইসেন্স নিলেই গোরু চরাইবার, বাঁশ কাটিবার ও জ্বালানি কাঠ কাটিবার অধিকার পাইত। এখন হইয়াছে গোরু চরাইবার জন্য স্বতন্ত্র পাস, জ্বালানি কাঠ কাটার এবং বাঁশ কাটার জন্য স্বতন্ত্র স্বতন্ত্র পাশের সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে। এক একটা পাশ গ্রহণ করিবার সময় Licence Clerk এর কাছে যে অশেষ দুর্গতি ভোগ করিতে হয়, তাই বাধ্য হইয়া ফরেষ্ট কর্ম্মচারীদিগকে উৎকোচ বা নজরানা দিতে হয়, ইহা কি শোচনীয় ব্যাপার। Forest সীমার বাইরে দীন-দরিদ্র কৃষক গোচারণ করিলেও তাহাদিগকে লইয়াও টানাটানি দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে। তাহাদিগকে বলা হয় যে, তোমরা Forest এর সীমানার ভিতর গিয়াছিলে, অতএব তোমাদের জরিমানা দিতে হইবে। এই অবস্থায় কি করিতে পারে গরীব বেচারিরা, তারা নিরুপায় হইয়া দুই আনা, চারি আনা বা ২।১ টাকা দিয়ে রক্ষা পায়। যারা ঘুস দিতে পারে না সে সব রাখালকে ধরিয়া চালান দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে। সেখানে বিচারের পদ্ধতিতেও স্বেচ্ছাচার চলিতেছে। যারা অপরাধ না করিয়াও ত্রুটি স্বীকার করে, তাহাদের দু'চার টাকা জরিমানা করা হয়, আর যাহারা বলে যে, আমরা দোষ করি নাই, ফরেষ্টের এলাকায় গোরু চরাই নাই তাহাদের তিনগুণ জরিমানা করা হয়। এই রকম সব অনাচার অত্যাচারের কোনই প্রতিকার হইতেছে না। Civilized Government এর এলাকার ভিতর এরকম অত্যাচার যদি চলে তাহা হইলে এ কলঙ্কের ডালি বহন করিবে কে? এ দেশে বাস করা কি সম্ভব? আমি আশা করি Forest বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহাশয় নিজে ঘটনাস্থলে যাইয়া আমাদের নিকট হইতে সাক্ষ্য প্রমাণ গ্রহণ করিয়া উক্তরূপ অত্যাচার, অবিচার সেখানে চলিতেছে কি না তদন্ত করিয়া দেখিবেন।

অতঃপর পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামের ভিতর কয়েকটা জমিদারী, যেমন বোমাং রাজার State আছে। তথাকার কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট হইতে যারা পাশ লইয়া বাঁশ, ছন, কাঠ প্রভৃতি কাটিয়া আনে তাহাদিগকেও Forest Department এর লোকেরা পথের মধ্যে ধরিয়া টানা-হিচড়া করে। যদি তাহারা দেখায় যে, State হইতে পাশ লইয়া তাহারা ঐ সব দ্রব্য আনিয়াছে, তাহা হইলে বলিয়া উঠে—"তোমরা যে রাস্তা দিয়া চলিতেছ তাহার কোন পাশ তো দেওয়া হয় নাই"। এই রকমের লুটপাট সেখানে সদা সর্বদা চলিতেছে কিন্তু তাহার কোনই প্রতিকার নাই। এদেশের লোকে পূর্বে পুলিশের অত্যাচার ও জুলুমের কথা লইয়া অভিযোগ করিত। কিন্তু বর্তমানে Forest এর হাল-চাল সম্বন্ধে যারা ভুক্ত-ভোগী তারা পুলিশের জুলুমের কথা ভুলে গিয়ে Forest বিভাগের অত্যাচারের কাহিনী সর্বক্ষণ বলিয়া থাকে। সেইজন্য আমি——

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Babu MAHIM CHANDRA DAS: মাননীয় সভাধ্যক্ষ মহাশয়, আমাদের বন-বিভাগের বন্য কীর্ত্তির (কর্ত্তাদের?) কথা আমর পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তারা অনেক বোলেছেন। এই বিভাগটা যে, সত্যই বন্য তার পরিচয় পদে পদে পাওয়া যায়। এর আয় হচ্ছে সাড়ে একুশ লক্ষ টাকা, সাড়ে সতের লাখ অর্থাৎ শতকরা ৮০৲ টাকা খরচ কোরে তবে এই পাঁচ লাখ টাকা মুনাফা কোরতে হয়। সাধারণ অবস্থায় ইহাকে কোন মতেই ব্যবসায় বুদ্ধির পরিচায়ক বলা চলে না।

এর উপরে, আমাদের বহুকালের পরাধীনতার প্রায়শ্চিত্ত করবার জন্য যে বিলাতের খরচ ও চার্জ্জযুক্ত বায় বাবত পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকার বরাদ্দ হয়েছে তার উপর হস্তক্ষেপ করবার অধিকার আমাদের নাই। কাজেই বাকি ১২॥ লক্ষ টাকার উপর মাত্র আমাদের বিচার, বিবেচনা সীমাবদ্ধ রাখতে হবে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় আজকের বক্তৃতায় অনেক বড় বড় স্কীমের কথা আমাদের শুনিয়েছেন। সে সকল স্কীমের সমালোচনায় আমি আজ অগ্রসর হচ্ছি না। আমার বক্তব্য এই যে, বাংলা দেশের সর্ব্বত্র যারা বনপ্রান্তে বাস করে, সেই সব অধিবাসীদের নিজেদের গোরু চোরাবার জন্য পাহাড়ে যেতে হয়, গোরুর ঘাস কাটবার জন্য পাহাড়ে যেতে হয়। তারপর গ্রামপ্রান্তে রান্না করবার জন্য কল্কা পাওয়া যায় না, সুতরাং তাদের জঙ্গলথেকে জ্বালানি কাঠ কেটে আনতে হয় এর উপরও যে প্রজা-দরদী গভর্ণমেণ্ট আয় করতে বিরত হতে পারেন না, সেটা আশ্চর্য্য, সেই সব অঞ্চলে লোকদের কি রকম উৎপীড়ন করা হয়, সে সম্বন্ধে আমাদের মৌলানা মনিরুজ্জমান ইসলামাবাদী যথেষ্ট বোলেছেন। কিন্তু আমি কেবল একটা কথাই বোলবো। সেটা হচ্ছে স্থানীয় অধিবাসীদের গোচারণ এবং গোগ্রাস সংগ্রহের উপর যে আয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট করেন, সেটা মাত্র ৩১ হাজার টাকা। এবং বোধ হয় ঐ আয় কোরতে Eighty per cent হিসাবে ২০।২৫ হাজার টাকা খরচ কোরতে হয়। এই ৩১ হাজার টাকা দিয়ে গরিবদের গোরু চরাতে হয় তারা শুধু ঐ টাকাই দেয় না সকলেই জানেন নানা অপথে ও কুপথে তাদের আরো অনেক বেশী দিতে হয়। আমি বড় বড় য়ুরোপিয়ান কর্ম্মচারীদের মোটা মাইনের সম্বন্ধে কিছু বোলবো না, কর্ম্মচারীদের মাইনে কমানোর কথা কিছু বোলবো না এবং তাদের মফস্বলে সফরের খরচের বিষয়ও কিছু বোলবো না। আমি শুধু বোলবো বহু আন্দোলন ও নিবেদন ও আবেদন সত্ত্বেও এই ৩১ হাজার টাকা রেহাই দেওয়া সম্বন্ধে গত দুই বৎসরের ভিতর কিছুই এ গভর্ণমেণ্ট করেন নাই। ২৫ হাজার টাকা তাঁরা রেখেছেন Provision for financing unforeseen scheme of immediately remunerative character. ইহার অর্থ হচ্ছে যে, স্কীমের অস্তিত্ব এখনও দৃষ্টির বাহিরে তেমন হঠাৎ আবির্ভূত কোন স্কীমের দ্বারা যদি হঠাৎ কিছু লাভের গন্ধ পাওয়া যায় তার জন্য পোক্তা দিয়ে রাখা হয়েছে ২৫,০০০৲। এই পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা না রাখলেই একত্রিশ হাজারের অধিকাংশের ব্যবস্থা হতে পারে। আনাচে, কানাচে, বিছানার নীচে আরও অনেক টাকা গোঁজা আছে। বড় বড় Scheme এর কথা অনেক শুনেছি কিন্তু হৃদয়ের পরিচয় কোথাও কিছু পাচ্ছি না। মাননীয় পরিষদের অধ্যক্ষ মহাশয়ের বোধ হয় স্মরণ আছে যে, চট্টগ্রামের কক্স বাজার অঞ্চলের গভর্ণরের বিশেষ দারিদ্রের অন্তর্গত কতক কুনিয়া—তাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টের খাসমহল থেকে কিছু জমি নিয়ে সেখানে ঘরবাড়ী কোরেছিলো, কিছু কিছু জমি চাষ কোরেছিলো, তাদের ধর্ম্মকার্য্যের ও ছেলেপিলেদের শিক্ষার জন্য দুখানি কোয়াল ঘরও কোরেছিলো, এমন সময় হঠাৎ বনবিভাগ সেখানে উপস্থিত হোয়ে বোল্লেন যে, "আমরা এখানে Plantation কোরবো," সেইজন্য তাদের খাস-মহলের প্রজাস্বত্ব ছাড়িয়ে, বনবিভাগের অধীনে বেগারের বন্দোবস্ত কোরে ফেল্লেন। তারপর বন-বিভাগের খেয়াল ট্রাফিক দুর্দ্দিন বর্ষাকালে তাদের বাড়ীঘর উৎখাৎ কোরে বেচারিদের রাস্তায় দাঁড় করানো হলো। প্রায় তিন শত লোককে এইভাবে হাতি আর হাতিয়ারের সাহায্যে তাদের ভিটে ছাড়া করা হয়েছে। সেই সব খাসমহালের প্রজাদের গোলাম বেগার বানানো হয়েছে এই নীতি গভর্ণমেণ্ট সমর্থন করেন কি না এই প্রশ্ন জিজ্ঞাসা করায় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বোল্লেন—হাঁ—এমন হৃদয়হীন দুর্নীতির সমর্থন করতে কার ইচ্ছা হয় না——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words with regard to the administration of the Forest Department in Chittagong. It is a great pity that in spite of our repeated prayers to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest Department both verbally and by representation to redress the grievances of the people to protect the crops from being destroyed by pigs and elephants, no action has yet been taken to redress those grievances. We inhabitants of Chittagong have been crying hoarse for the last two years for the redress of our grievances, but no step has been taken by Government to protect the cultivators from the ravages of wild elephants or to give them facilities for the production of crops and ours has been a cry in the wilderness.

I may also refer to another important matter in this connection Cattle and buffaloes are essentially necessary for ploughing fields but want of grazing fields is keenly felt in our district and many cultivators have been forced to sell their buffaloes for want of grazing fields. The Forest Department has been doing nothing to help the cultivators in this respect. So indirectly Government are responsible for forcing the cultivators from giving up cultivation for want of grazing fields for their buffaloes and thereby they are immensely increasing the misery of the people. It is very difficult rather impossible to carry on cultivation without cattle and buffaloes. So grazing ground for buffaloes is an absolute necessity

Secondly the grazing of buffaloes is prohibited in the forest areas though the people are ready to pay 4 annas per year Cultivation and life of human being depend on cattle, but there is no provision for their maintenance and no grazing fields are reserved for cattle. The Forest Department feel apprehensive that if buffaloes are allowed to graze on the hillside the whole forest will be deforested, but I say that there is no such danger.

The next thing is the killing of wild animals Unless the wild animals are killed they will destroy the paddy and kill the cattle, but no action has been taken in this direction in the district of Chittagong. Government are protecting the animals but not human lives. So we strongly urge the Government to protect the crop and the lives of human beings. In short I hope that our grievances will be redressed by the present Ministry. We expect that something tangible should be done for the protection of cattle and buffaloes and that free passes should be given to the people to cut fuels for their maintenance.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: For some time past there have been petitions from people living near the forest areas in Chittagong for the redress of grievances and only a few months ago I had

been to Chittagong and to Cox's Bazar and have had an opportunity of visiting the forest areas myself and hearing from the people an account of their grievances and as to what they consider to be their legitimate demands with regard to the simplification of the procedure in the administration of forest and also for the removal of their pressing wants and requirements. Sir, I have in the course of my visit to Chittagong met the local forest officers and the local gentry and had a discussion with them on the grievances of the agriculturists living contiguous to the forest areas. Thereafter we had a conference in Calcutta where we came to certain tentative conclusions, which we believe will meet the wishes of the people in Chittagong and will go to a large extent to satisfy their demands. Two of the questions that have been agitating the public mind are regarding the deforestation of what is known as the Rampur Block and the granting of free passes for grazing purposes. We are seriously considering the question of deforestation of the Rampur Block on the line of Bhadrakali area in that locality. One of the block similarly situated was deforested some time in 1929 and 1930, but the experiment has not been a success as the land has been found to be saline after two or three years and not useful for permanent crops. We propose therefore to appoint a committee partly of officials and partly of non-officials to go into the question and advise us on the advisability and feasibility of disforesting the Rampur Block. Should it be decided ultimately to deforest that area and open it for cultivation, we propose settling on it landless labourers or such of the agriculturists who are in a position to cultivate land by themselves.

As regards free permits for grazing, we shall be very happy to set apart suitable plots of land, if available, for the benefit of cattle if applications are made to the Collector by Union Boards. From the Cox's Bazar area we have received several complaints with regard to forest administration. It has been suggested to us that we should deforest those portions of the area that are situated near the villages. We are prepared to go even further and deforest such portions of the area as we find can be suitably utilised for cultivation. For this purpose we have already started enquiries and have received certain reports on which we proposed to take almost immediate action.

We are also considering the question of granting concessions in the matter of cheap thatching for the benefit of the poor cultivators and I trust I shall be able to announce the concession in a very short time.

We are also considering the simplification of procedure in regard to the extraction of timber from private forests which has always created a great deal of discontent and dissatisfaction in the locality. These are some of the main considerations.

Over and above these we have also decided to give the following concessions to the agriculturists:—

(1) Steps should be taken to deforest at once all plots not containing valuable timber and to fell as quickly as possible timber in the remaining parts in the protected forests which have been so ruined that they cannot within a reasonable time be brought back to a state of usefulness so as to free the land for grazing or settlement.

(2) Fuel wood passes to be no longer insisted on at the time of granting grazing passes.

(3) The non-official proposals for vigilance committees to be accepted by Government.

(4) Government have already taken rigorous disciplinary measures to prevent corruption among the forest subordinates and will not hesitate to take necessary steps whenever any case is brought to their notice.

(5) Government have also decided to employ sikaris to destroy wild elephants which are the main cause of the damage to cultivation.

I hope and trust that all these concessions are in accordance with the non-official demands and that they are not negligible and will certainly serve to show that Government are in earnest about some measures of concessions and that therefore the proceedings of the Conference as ratified will be taken as a guarantee of Government's good wishes for increasing the prosperity of the agriculturists in that area. There are those who think that in making these concessions we have in some cases gone beyond the line of safety, but we have taken these steps in the hope that people will realise that in spite of our difficulties we are not forgetful of the legitimate demands which are constitutionally put forward and that Government will always be ready, as it has always been in the past, to redress the real grievances legitimately put forward without any appeal to passion and prejudice of any kind.

The motion of Mr. Birendra Nath Mazumdar that the demand of Rs. 12,78,000 under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy which was moved by Maulana Md. Maniruzzaman Islamabadi that the demand of Rs. 12,78,000 under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 12,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut was then put and agreed to.

11—Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 23,15,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 24,15,000 under the head "Registration" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise discussion about the policy of the Government for not taking effective steps to reduce the cost of registration by decreasing the registration fee and fee for taking copies from the Registration Office

Sir, I shall not inflict a speech on the subject at the tag-end of the sitting, specially because the members of the House are not in a mood to hear us But, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in charge of the Department to the policy of the Government with regard to the preparation of the table of fees without consulting public opinion. That policy itself is bad I am fully aware of the fact that under section 78 of the Indian Registration Act, the Local Government shall prepare a table of fees payable for the registration of documents and for searching the registers and for making or granting copies, etc My submission is this that this section 78 has to be amended The principle underlying this section is extremely bad, because the table of fees affects the interests of the poor people. It should be done in consultation with public opinion and in consultation with members of this House That is the first thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, but I am afraid the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is not listening to my remarks

Then, Sir, the next thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is that if he compares the tables of fees prevalent for making documents or preparing documents in the civil and criminal courts and in the Registration Office, he will find that the table of fees that is prevalent in the Registration Offices is much more than the table of fees in the Civil and Criminal Courts. If we have to apply for obtaining a copy of a certain document in the Civil Court we can make an application on the payment of 6 annas. But if we have to obtain a copy from the Registration Office we shall have to make an application on the payment of one rupee. And the table of fees for making copies in Civil and Criminal Courts is also much less than the table of fees that is prevalent in the Registration Office. There is absolutely no reason why such things should be

allowed to remain. As a matter of fact, if all the particulars are mentioned—including the date on which the document is registered, the names of the parties concerned, the registration number, the volume number and the book number—even then the searching fee has to be paid. There is absolutely no reason why if all particulars are supplied, this searching fee should be paid at all. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that this section was enacted at the time when we were under the bureaucratic form of Government and I am fully aware that the steel frame character of the administration has not at all changed, though it is said that we have got now Provincial Autonomy and that we have got now a taste of the Provincial Autonomy in the course of the last two years. Then the next thing is that the table of fees can be revised by the Local Government at any time, even in the course of a year and a half. There was one table of fees in the year 1909. The table of fees was revised in 1928, then in 1935 and again in 1936 with the object of increasing the fees. So there is absolutely no reason why this table of fees should be increased from what it was in 1928. When the table of fees was revised in 1928 the condition of the poor cultivators was much better. The price of the agricultural produce was then much higher. The average price of jute then was Rs 10 and the average price of the jute now is not more than Rs 4. The average price of paddy was then Rs. 4 and the average price of paddy now is Rs. 2. The table of fees was revised in the year 1928 It has been subsequently revised twice within ten years with the object of increasing the fees, though the condition of the cultivators has gone from bad to worse. That is the point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. My submission through you, Sir, is this—that Government should look into the matter and see that the searching fee, the fee for obtaining copies of documents and the fee for registration should be revised in view of the fact that the condition of the poor people has gone from bad to worse. I am quite sure, Sir, that when this cut motion will be put before the House, we shall hear from the other side "no", though they pose themselves as the friends of the poor cultivators. But one thing is clear that as there is scope for retrenchment in all departments so is there scope for retrenchment in the Registration Department. If you consider the pay of officers, the Registrar of Calcutta gets Rs. 450 to Rs. 500 and the Sub-Registrars from Rs. 80 to 250. I hear that the maximum of Rs. 250 has been reduced to Rs. 220 now Yesterday we were told by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that the pay of Rs. 175 was not a small sum in a province like Bengal when we were opposing the Finance Bill on the ground that it would hard-hit the persons having an income of Rs. 175; and I think the pay of Rs. 200 for the mechanical work of a Registrar cannot be said——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 23,15,000 under the head "11—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a debate about the recent enhancement of process-fees and other grievances.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব এই Registration Department এর আমূল পরিবর্ত্তন করার কথা অনেক দিন হইতে বলিয়া আসিতেছি। ইহার ভিতর যে corruption বর্ত্তমান সে সম্বন্ধে অনেক কিছু বলা হইয়া আসিতেছে। কিন্তু এত বলা সত্ত্বেও কোন পরিবর্ত্তন হইতেছে না। যে registration fee পূর্ব্বে ছিলো তার চেয়ে বাড়িয়ে এনে বর্ত্তমান উচ্চহারে ফিস ধার্য্য করা হয়েছে। এই বৃদ্ধি হইবার যে কি কারণ রয়েছে তা আমরা বুঝি না। দেশের অবস্থা ক্রমশঃই খারাপ হইতেছে, ফসলের অবস্থাও খারাপ। পাটের দর ৩০৲ টাকা হইতে ৩।৪৲ টাকায় নামিয়াছে। এ অবস্থাতেও registration fee কমিলো না। এই registration fee টা দেয় কারা? যতসব গরীব কৃষক—শতকরা ৯৫টী রেজেষ্টরী তারাই করিয়া থাকে। মানুষ যখন রেজেষ্টরী আফিসে দলিল রেজেষ্টরী করিতে যায় তখন সে বিপদে পড়িয়াই যায়। দেনাশোধের জন্য বা খাজনা পরিশোধের জন্যই দরিদ্রেরা দলিল সম্পাদন বেশীর ভাগ করিয়া থাকে। সেই দলিল রেজেষ্টরী আফিসে যাইয়া রেজেষ্টরী করার সময় তাহাদের উপর যে জুলুম হয় সেটার প্রতিকার করিবার জন্য বারবার বলা সত্ত্বেও কিছুই করা হইতেছে না। রেজেষ্টরী আফিসে পর্দ্দানশিন মেয়েদের বসিবার কোন সুবিধা নাই। তারা সেখানে যাইয়া নিরাশ্রয়ের মতন কোনও প্রকারে কাজ সমাধা করিয়া থাকে। পর্দ্দানশিন মহিলাদের বসিবার মতন একটা ব্যবস্থা বা সুবিধা মতন কোন ঘর বা স্থান নাই। বাংলাদেশের রেজেষ্টরী আফিসগুলিতে কতপ্রকার বাজে আবওয়াব আদায় হইতেছে তাহা কর্তৃপক্ষের জানা সত্ত্বেও তাহার কোন প্রতিকার হইতেছে না।

তারপর Marriage Registrar এর একটা পদের সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে। ইহার ফলে গরীবের বিবাহে যত খরচ হয় প্রায় তার সমান খরচ করিতে হয় উহা রেজেষ্টরী করিতে। (A member from the Coalition Group বিবাহ করিতে এরকম খরচ লাগাই উচিত)। Registration fee এর income আগের চেয়ে কমিয়াছে। কিন্তু যদিও আগের চেয়ে কমিয়াছে তথাপি পূর্ব্বে যে বৃদ্ধি হইয়াছিল সেই বৃদ্ধির টাকা এখনো রহিয়াছে। এ বিভাগের খরচও কিছুই কমিতেছে না। তাছাড়া টিকিটের পয়সা, পিয়নের পয়সা লোকেদের দিতে হয়। তার উপর কেরাণির নজর রেজেষ্টরী করার সময় আদায় করা হয় এবং সব-রেজিষ্ট্রাররা তার ভাগ নিয়া থাকেন বলিয়া জানা যায়। তারপর Inspector-General of Registration বলিয়া একটা বড় পদ রহিয়াছে তার দরুণ অনেক টাকা খরচ হয়। রেজেষ্টরী আফিস inspection করার জন্য বড় বড় officer রা যান তাদের (পরিদর্শকদের) বেতনের জন্য অনেক টাকা অনর্থক ব্যয় হয়। Special Sub-Registrar দ্বারাই যখন inspection চলিতে পারে তখন কেন যে বড় বড় officer দের প্রেরণ করিয়া অত অধিক টাকা খরচ করা হয়—তার কোন কারণ আমরা বুঝি না।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the table of registration fees was first revised in 1928, and there was no complaint that it had operated harshly upon the public or that it had hit hard the poorer classes. The question of increase was taken up and considered on the recommendation of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee of

1932 and *ad valorem* fees on certain class of documents of small value up to Rs. 250 were fixed under Government notification, dated 12th July, 1933. That this slight increase has not really caused any hardship to the people will be evident when we consider the increase that has taken place in the number of registrations since the present rate came into force. In 1932 the number of registrations was 920,872; in 1933 it fell to 910,712, but after the increase in 1934 the number rose to 1,035,299; in 1936 it rose to 1,145,721; and in 1937 it rose to 1,122,850.

Now, Sir, my friend Mr. Dutta has pointed out that the increase had taken place at a time when the bureaucrats were in power, and he expects that with the introduction of the Provincial Autonomy the fees should be reduced, if not actually wiped out. Let me point out to him that in the Congress Provinces no attempt has been made to reduce the registration fees; on the contrary, there is a rumour that in one province they are actually going to enhance the fees. And if the amount of reduction of registration fees is any test of Provincial Autonomy, you may take it that the Congress Provinces have not got any Provincial Autonomy at all. They have not reduced the registration fees, and there is no reason why in Bengal the Congress members of the Opposition would insist upon the Government to take a course which the Congress Governments themselves have not been in a position to take.

Now, Sir, it must be remembered that the Registration Department is one of the few departments which supply revenue in excess of expenditure. In 1936-37 the Registration Department contributed an excess of Rs. 5 lakhs to the public revenues. In 1937-38 the Registration Department contributed nearly Rs. 4 lakhs in excess, and it is obvious that we cannot reduce the fee without upsetting the provincial balance. If you reduce the fees, you will have to find out the reduced receipts by taxation of some kind. I am sure the public in Bengal will not prefer to be taxed when a slight increase of a few annas in the form of registration and other fees will bring in revenue in the shape of receipts from such fee and give us a surplus after meeting all the expenses.

Sir, on these grounds I oppose all these cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 23,15,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Asimuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 23,15,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion that a sum of Rs. 23,15,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration" moved by the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq was then put and agreed to.

Assembly meetings for 9th, 10th and 11th March.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I adjourn the House I have just to make an announcement that to-morrow we meet at the usual time, viz., 4-45 p.m. and not at 3-45 p.m. as already intimated, which was due to a mistake in printing. On Friday next, we also meet at 4-45 p.m. but on Saturday, on account of the Convocation of the University, we meet at 11-30 a.m. as it would be the most convenient time to meet, in view of the fact that some of the honourable members of this House might like to attend the Convocation

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, can you not do without meeting on Saturday?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the real man concerned in the matter is by your side (meaning the Hon'ble the Home Minister).

However, for the time being, I adjourn the House till 4-45 p.m. to-morrow.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 9th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 9th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 201 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Debt Settlement Boards in several Union Boards, Chittagong.

*153. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state, thana by thana—

(*i*) how many ordinary Debt Settlement Boards have been at present fully functioning comprising how many Union Boards in the police-stations of Hathazari, Fatikchari and Raozan in the district of Chittagong; and

(*ii*) in how many Union Boards Debt Settlement Boards are not fully functioning?

(*b*) Why there is delay in establishing Debt Settlement Boards in the remaining Union Boards especially in the Paindang and Kanchannagar Union Boards and also Madarsha and Fatehpur Union Boards?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) (*i*) *Police-station Hathazari*—3 Debt Settlement Boards comprising six Unions.

Police-station Fatikchari—5 Debt Settlement Boards comprising 10 Unions.

Police-station Raozan—3 Debt Settlement Boards comprising 3 Unions.

(*ii*) *Police-station Hathazari*—6 Union Boards.

Police-station Fatikchari—5 Union Boards.

Police-station Raozan—11 Union Boards.

(*b*) The delay is due to the difficulty of selecting suitable persons for appointment as Chairmen and members of Debt Settlement Board.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the person who selects suitable persons for such appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: It is the local officer, who is the District Magistrate in this case.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: What is the criterion by which the suitability of a person is judged for such appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Persons who enjoy the greatest amount of confidence in the locality with reputation for honesty

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Is any special knowledge or qualification required on the part of a person so appointed?

Mr. SPEAKER: I can't understand your question. What do you mean by "special knowledge"?

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: The Hon'ble Minister says that the person who enjoys the greatest amount of confidence in the locality is appointed. My question is: is any special knowledge required on the part of the person so appointed?

Mr. SPEAKER: Special knowledge about what?

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: For performing the duties of the Debt Settlement Boards

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I do not know if any other special knowledge is required.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:

মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি জানেন যে এই যে suitability সম্বন্ধে তিনি যে বোঝেছেন, সে সম্বন্ধে আমার জিজ্ঞাস্য এই যে, Circle Officer দের সম্পূর্ণ কোরতে পারাই কি এক্ষেত্রের উপযুক্ততা নয়?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I am afraid that nothing of the kind has been brought to my notice yet.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that special knowledge of law is necessary to determine the intricate questions of law that generally arise in deciding the cases brought before Debt Settlement Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I am sorry I cannot agree with the honourable member.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Debt Settlement Boards already established have been working to the satisfaction of the parties concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I hope so

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:

মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তার (*a*) উত্তরে যে বলেছেন যে police-station Fatikchari তে ১০টা Union Board এর জন্য ৫টা Debt Settlement Board হোয়েছে, তৎসম্পর্কে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি গভর্ণমেন্ট কি প্রতি ইউনিয়নে একটা কোরে Debt Settlement Board স্থাপন করার নীতি গ্রহণ কোরতে পারছেন না?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: That is the ultimate idea of Government

Result of stoppage of cess revaluation operations.

***154. Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that a number of persons have been thrown out of employment as a result of stoppage of cess revaluation operations?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of absorbing these people in different departments?

(*c*) If they are not to be so absorbed, what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) Yes

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Instructions have already been issued to District Officers that in selecting a revaluation staff for any district preference should be given to applicants who worked as revaluation clerks in other districts.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any possibility of taking in hand the cess revaluation work in districts where it has been stopped?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir. Government have prepared a programme, and revaluation is going to be taken up, at least, in three districts next year.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please name the districts?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: So far as I remember, Khulna is one, and the other districts are Bankura, Pabna and probably Faridpur

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the persons thrown out of employment were temporary hands?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Certainly; they were all temporary hands

Infant mortality.

***155. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state what is the percentage of infant mortality in the year 1938 in rural areas in comparison with the percentage of infant mortality in the town area in that year?

(*b*) If the percentage of the mortality of infants in the rural area is bigger than the percentage of mortality of infants in the urban area, what are the reasons?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the want of competent nurse and midwife in the rural area of Bengal?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal, the District Boards and the Union Boards, do not spend money for maintaining or training of competent nurses in the whole rural area of Bengal?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the delivery of the children in that area is left to hereditary quacks called *dais*?

(*f*) What sum of money is spent by the Government and the Municipality separately every year for maintaining midwives and nurses in the town area of Bengal?

(*g*) What measure do the Government contemplate taking to tackle the problem of supplying competent nurses in the rural area of Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the MEDICAL and PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) The percentage of infant mortality for the year 1938 is not yet available. The percentage of infant mortality for 1937 was 17·5 in rural areas and 19·1 in urban areas.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government make an annual grant of Rs. 15,000 for the training of *dais* intended generally for service in rural areas.

(*e*) A large number of *dais* has already been trained under the Public Health Department scheme. The position, however, needs improvement and the matter is under my consideration.

(*f*) The information is being collected and will be furnished as soon as available.

(*g*) I may explain to the hon'ble member that the solution of the problem of infant mortality in the rural areas and, generally speaking, of Maternity and Child Welfare, lies not in the supply of nurses but very largely in the spread of Maternity and Child Welfare clinics and centres. The whole matter is under my consideration.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি মনে করেন না যে বাংলার প্রায় লক্ষাধিক গ্রামের এবং প্রায় পাঁচ কোটি অধিবাসীর নিমিত্ত মাত্র ১৫ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দের দ্বারা এই শিশুমৃত্যুর হার কমিয়ে দেবার ব্যবস্থাটা নিতান্তই অকিঞ্চিৎকর?

Mr. SPEAKER: For training *dais* and not for reducing child mortality.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: As has been pointed out by you, Sir, the sum of Rs. 15,000 is spent only for training *dais*, and for maternity and child welfare work other sums of money have been provided.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মন্ত্রীমহাশয় (*g*) সংখ্যক প্রশ্নের উত্তরে শিশুমৃত্যুর হার কমিয়ে দেবার যা উপায় নির্দ্ধারণ কোরেছেন তার চেয়েও কি বিজ্ঞজনোচিত উপায় নির্দ্দেশ হবে না যদি স্থানে স্থানে জন্মনিরোধ শিক্ষাগার স্থাপন করা যায়?

(No reply.)

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many trained *dais* are employed for combating infant mortality in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I want notice, but this much I can say that quite a large number of *dais* is so employed.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*e*), in which it is stated that a large number of *dais* has already been trained under the Public Health Department scheme, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where these *dais* are trained and who is in charge of sending them to the villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: These *dais* are trained in the villages actually.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*a*), why there is a higher rate of infant mortality in urban areas than in rural areas? In the answer he has stated that the percentage of infant mortality for 1937 was 17·5 in rural areas and 19·1 in urban areas. What is the cause of this higher mortality in urban areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, it is very difficult to say what is the exact cause of the difference in mortality between the urban and rural areas.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister any information that these trained *dais* really carry on the trade of *dais* in the villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, Sir, they are trained with that intention, and many of them carry on the profession of *dais* in the villages.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the public health scheme under which the *dais* are trained?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি একথা স্বীকার করবেন যে পুষ্টিকর খাদ্যের অভাব infant mortality র একটা প্রধান কারণ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question does not arise.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how this grant of Rs. 15,000 will be spent?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: It will be spent by distribution amongst the various districts for the training of *dais*.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government think it necessary to start institutions for the training of *dais* in every Union?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, as far as practicable, Government can only do what is possible with the money that is available.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of the large infant mortality in the rural areas, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government would consider the desirability of spreading scientific training in contraceptives in the rural areas?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:

মন্ত্রীমহাশয় (e) উত্তরে অনেক দাইকে শিক্ষা দেওয়া হয়েছে বোলে লেখা আছে—কিন্তু মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি যে Dai training scheme এর দ্বারা শুধু ভদ্রলোকদের মেয়েদেরই শিক্ষা দেওয়া হয় এবং তারা নিজেদের familyতে ছাড়া আর কোথাও চিকিৎসা করেন না?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The answer is in the negative.

Deaths due to Malaria, Kala-azar, etc., in Mymensingh.

***156. Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE ROY CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, for the last five years in the district of Mymensingh the number of deaths due to malaria, kala-azar, cholera and small-pox—

(*i*) in each of the Municipalities; and

(*ii*) outside Municipal areas?

(*b*) What steps the Municipalities and the District Board have taken to counteract the development of the above diseases in the district?

(*c*) What is the percentage of death and birth in proportion to population within and outside Municipal areas during the said period, year by year?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) The information has been asked for. Reply to this clause will be given as soon as materials are available.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE RAY CHOUDHURY: In view of the increase in mortality in the Netrakona subdivision due to malaria, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government intend taking special steps besides those taken by the Municipality and the District Board?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Excavation of the Bemorta Canal in Khulna.

*157. **Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Has the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department considered the question that with the lapse of time, the excavation of the Bemorta Canal in the district of Khulna will be more costly?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplate commencement of actual work of excavation of the canal in 1939?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) I agree that the initial cost of re-excavation is likely to increase, the longer the work is postponed.

(*b*) An estimate is being prepared, but I doubt whether it will be possible to begin work before the end of this year.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: In view of the admission by Government that this is the main gateway to Eastern Bengal, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the work has not yet been taken in hand?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I admit that the khal is a part of an important water route and it has been decided that the work should be taken up by Government. The difficulty which lay before us was more or less of a technical nature. The khal is the meeting place of two tides and what we want to make

sure is that it may not be silted up again very soon. I quite appreciate the anxiety of the members from the number of questions which were asked during the last session. I hoped to include this work in the coming year's budget. But that could not be done as the estimates were not ready. I believe the estimates would be ready at an early date and the work will be provided in the next budget.

All-Bengal Registration Employees' Association.

*158. **Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the All-Bengal Registration Employees' Association, registered under the Trade Union Act, 1926, and recognised by the Government, has received the patronage of the Hon'ble Premier of Bengal;

(*b*) whether there is any report against the Association for any subversive activities; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that on the 22nd December, 1938, Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal, issued a circular to every District Registrar threatening the members of the All-Bengal Registration Employees' Association with severe punishment for becoming members of an unrecognised Association?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes, but the Association has not been recognised by Government. Its application for recognition is under consideration.

(*b*) and (*c*) No.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is prepared to make an enquiry on production of documentary evidence that the information upon which he bases his reply is not correct?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, certainly.

Calcutta University Text-books.

*159. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether he has consulted the authorities of the Calcutta University to find out ways and means so that text-books may not be changed so frequently?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No. These text-books are either recommended or prescribed by the Syndicate of the Calcutta University and Government have no hand in the matter.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that parents having more than one child are very hard hit by frequent change of text-books?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Quite possible.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government think that no relief can be given in the matter until Secondary Education Board is established?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, my question is if some relief can be given with the introduction of the Secondary Education Board?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is very difficult to say when, but it may be a solution of this problem

Amount of education cess realised in Tippera.

***160. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the amount of education cess that has been realised in the district of Tippera since the imposition of that cess; and

(*ii*) what is the number of schools that have been started up to this day?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the cultivators as well as the middle class Talukdars have found it difficult to pay this cess during the present economic distress?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Rs. 1,26,007-12-8 up to the 16th February, 1939.

(*ii*) 233.

(*b*) No.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount that would be required for giving the scheme full operation in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I could have answered it with notice, but I can say this much that Government contribution will be 40 per cent. of what will be realised from the cess.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the number of schools that is proposed to be set up?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I must have notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: All payments are difficult to make, but I do not believe the condition of things is so bad that people cannot afford to pay this cess as it is not very high.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the basis of his information?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Common sense

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the scales of pay prevailing in these schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Everything will be decided by District School Boards and Government have practically no hand in the matter.

Causes of malaria at Serajganj.

***161. Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government and that of the Railway authorities has been drawn to starred question Nos. 29 of the 16th February, 1938, 366 of 7th April, 1938, and 184 of 24th August, 1938, put in the Assembly to the effect that the closing of the mouth of the canal near Raipur station by the railway line and embankment,

has been the cause of the ravages of malaria in an area of 8 or 9 square miles and deterioration of lands for want of natural silts which have affected the health of about 11,000 people?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what further steps, if any, have been taken by the Government in the matter?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) of the percentage of malaria and kala-azar cases in the affected area;

(*ii*) that there is only one small culvert between the stations Kalia-Haripur and Serajganj Bazar; and

(*iii*) that there is no other inlet or outlet for ingress and regress of water to flush this affected area; and

(*iv*) that Government experts are of opinion that 3 culverts between the stations Kalia-Haripur and Serajganj Bazar are necessary for saving the affected area from devastation?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) (*iv*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking immediate steps in this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*d*) The Assistant Director of Public Health, Malaria Research, made an inspection on the 9th February, 1939, but the matter is still being further investigated by the Director of Public Health whose report is awaited by Government.

(*c*) (*i*) Separate records are not kept regarding malaria and kala-azar cases for this particular area but a statement showing the percentage of malaria and kala-azar cases admitted into the Serajganj Hospital and of malaria and kala-azar deaths in the Serajganj Municipal area during the years 1934 to 1938 which may be of interest in this connection, is placed below.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) At present there is no other inlet or outlet; but it is reported that flood water can be admitted to flush the area through the Telkupi *khal* provided the District Board and Municipal authorities improve and enlarge the existing culverts in their roads in the area and the villagers allow a passage to the river water by closing the old silted up *khal* in the affected area.

(*iv*) The expert opinion received so far by Government does not admit the necessity of such culverts, but a further investigation is being arranged.

Statement referred to in answer to clause (c) (i) of starred question No. 161, showing percentage of malaria and kala-azar cases admitted in the Serajganj Hospital; and malaria and kala-azar deaths in the Serajganj Municipality.

Year	Total cases.	Serajganj Hospital.				Serajganj Municipality.			
		Malaria cases	Per-centage.	Kala-azar cases.	Per-centage.	Malaria deaths.	Ratio per mille of popula-tion.	Kala-azar deaths.	Ratio per mille of popula-tion
1934 .	13,693	3,798	27·7	113	·8	199	6·1	1	·03
1935 ..	13,034	8,260	25·0	140	1·1	221	6·8	..	..
1936 ..	12,497	1,992	15·9	520	4·2	64	2·0	9	·2
1937 ..	13,874	2,606	19·2	760	5·5	11	3	7	·2
1938 ..	11,828	1,917	16·2	676	5·7	40*	1·2*	8*	·3*

*From January, 1938, to November, 1938.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the affected area is comprised of 14 or 15 villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That may be

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if out of those 14 or 15 villages only 3 villages are within the municipality and the Hon'ble Minister has given the figures of the kala-azar cases from the municipal hospitals?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, that is no doubt the case. The reason is that my honourable friend did not put in the question for any specific area?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ড এবং মুনিসিপালিটির authority দের ঐ area বন্ধ খাল পরিষ্কার করবার জন্য অনুরোধ কোরবেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, that may be done.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the distance of the station Raipur where the mouth of the canal was closed from the river Jamuna and that of the river Jamuna from the Raipur station?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not know. Probably my friend knows better. If he wants to know from me I want notice.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that there were several breaches in the Sara-Serajganj line on account of the insufficiency of the culverts during 1938 flood?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That may be so.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমার অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্নের উত্তরে ডিস্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ড ও মুনিসিপালিটির authority দের অনুরোধ জানাবার স্বীকৃতি জ্ঞাপন কোরেছেন; তিনি কি অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন, এই অবরুদ্ধ খালের মুখ পরিষ্কার করিবার জন্য যে খরচের আবশ্যক তার কতকাংশ গভর্ণমেণ্ট বহন করিবেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the railway authorities will bear the cost of the construction of culverts?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I cannot say anything about what the railway authorities will do

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to answer (*a*), i.e., the closing of the mouth of the canal near Raipur station has been the cause of malaria and kala-azar, does not the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that the railway authorities should bear the cost of construction of culverts?

The Hon'ble Mr TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: My opinion about the railway authorities being responsible or not for bearing the cost will be of no value whatsoever.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: In view of the fact that the major portion of the affected area lies outside municipal area, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the percentage of the malaria and kala-azar cases in the affected area?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: If my friend gives me the names of the villages then that can be done.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will be pleased to urge the Government of India to bear the cost of construction?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow this question. I shall only allow one more question.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that several representations have been sent to the Government and railway authorities mentioning the names of villages as well as of the whole affected area?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. I will now take up the agricultural budget. I may say that I propose to give about three-fourths of an hour for its discussion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not more?

Mr. SPEAKER: If we see that one hour is not sufficient, I shall allow more time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We can go right up to 7-15 with Agriculture and thereafter Veterinary.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, up to 7-15.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

40—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 15,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture".

We all know that ours is a predominantly agricultural country and therefore the one main problem before us is how to improve the agriculture of the province. The problem of problems really is the chronic poverty of our masses and circumstanced as we are we naturally look up to agriculture for the solution of this main problem. So far as the Government of Bengal is concerned, its policy and programme about this main problem was set out by the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca in his budget statement last year. That programme may be outlined briefly under nine main heads:—

(1) agricultural education,

(2) demonstration,

(3) research,

(4) publicity,

(5) cattle improvement,

(6) marketing,

(7) subsidiary employment for agriculturists,

(8) assistance to cultivators, and

(9) consolidation of holdings.

So far as agricultural education is concerned, there is no adequate provision in our province for the purpose and apart from the inadequacy of the provision whatever provision there is, is not of a sufficiently high standard. Therefore our young men have very often to go out of the province for the purpose of agricultural education. It is apparent that such education is not always fully useful on account of the fact that conditions in Bengal are different from conditions in places where these students get their education. It is therefore essential that our young men should be trained in Bengal for agricultural work. With this end in view Government have decided to start an Agricultural Institute at Dacca and in fact Government have already taken action on that decision. This Agricultural Institute will train men for the Higher Agricultural Service of the Province. It will also train animal husbandry workers and thirdly this institution will also train a certain number of men who want to take up scientific farming as a profession. The total estimated cost of this institute is Rs. 4½ lakhs. Of this amount Rs. 1½ lakh has been provided in the current year's budget and Rs. 2 lakhs in the next year's. Honourable members probably know that the foundation of the Institute has already been laid and the work of construction has commenced.

It is expected that the work of construction will be finished early in 1940 and I hope that the Institute will be in a position to start work in the early months of the year 1940. But the establishment of one Agricultural Institute at Dacca will not meet the requirements of the province. It will also be necessary to start more educational institutions and it has been decided to start more secondary schools on the model of the Dacca Secondary Agricultural School. As one of the first steps towards the realisation of this scheme, it is proposed to provincialise the Chinsura-Bhupnath Agricultural School which is now a private institution. Then, Sir, it is also proposed that a certain number of our students should be sent abroad for the purpose of acquiring higher agricultural education. And so far as the present budget is concerned there is provision for sending three students to the United Kingdom for training in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. So far as demonstration is concerned, a scheme of a more or less comprehensive character has already been prepared. That scheme includes

the establishment of at least one District Agricultural Farm in every district and secondly the establishment of a Union Board Farm in each Union and thirdly the appointment——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. May I enquire whether the Hon'ble Minister has got anything to improve on the White Paper circulated last year? He is merely repeating the same things. Under the Rules of the Assembly repetitions of the same arguments are not permissible. If he had any new suggestions other than those which his predecessor had laid before us, they would be welcome.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I hope my friend will hold his soul in patience for a few minutes.

I am now showing the scheme that has been adopted by the Government and I went to show next how far the Government have gone to implement that scheme. Otherwise it will be useless to talk only about theoretical matters.

And secondly, as I was going to say, the establishment of a Union Board Farm in each Union and thirdly the appointment of a demonstrator in each thana. So far as District Farms are concerned, almost all the districts have got one farm each. In the current year, a scheme has been sanctioned for the establishment of a District Agricultural Farm at Midnapore and the next year's budget contains provision for the establishment of another Agricultural Farm in the district of Chittagong. As regards Union Board Farms, 96 such farms have been hitherto established and it is proposed that during the next year another 22 such farms will be established. As regards demonstrators, 101 of them have been working since the last constitution and during the current year 10 have been appointed and 10 more are proposed to be appointed during the next year. Sir, I admit that the additional appointments are not quite satisfactory in number. Why that is so can easily be guessed. I have already said that at present there is no adequate provision for giving training in agriculture in our province. Unless we can train a sufficient number of men, it is not possible to start new Demonstration Farms in the Union Board areas. Therefore I expect that when additional provision is made for training our young men it will be possible to accelerate the pace of appointing demonstrators and also of starting Union Board Farms. There is one aspect of the question which is really important. So far as demonstration is concerned we have hitherto done really very little in comparison with what we should have done. In this connection it will be interesting to note the opinion that was expressed by Sir John Russell in his recent report. That opinion was also placed before the House by the Nawab

Bahadur of Dacca last year. He indicated that demonstration in India is lagging behind research and that greater efforts must be made to bridge the gap between the research station and the cultivators' fields. Sir, when these Union Board Farms are established in all the unions and when a sufficiently large number of demonstrators is appointed, then only it will be possible to carry the results of the research stations to the homes of the cultivators. That is very important and Government will try their best to accelerate the pace of this improvement. Then there is also provision in the present budget for distribution of prizes to cultivators for successful cultivation of crops according to improved methods and also for giving subsidies to selected cultivators for introduction of improved methods on their own plots, as well as subsidies for private seed stores. So far as research is concerned, the research station at Dacca has been doing very good work and as honourable members probably know already better and higher yielding varieties of jute, paddy, sugar-cane and some other crops have been evolved. I admit, Sir, that it is necessary to extend the activities of this research station and Government are quite alive to this question and adequate steps are being taken to extend its activities. Besides this, the present budget includes provision for the following new schemes of experiments and research:—

(1) scheme for demonstration,

(2) scheme for the multiplication of mustard seeds,

(3) scheme for the continuance of a horticultural station in Bengal, and

(4) continuance of the scheme for the cultivation of long staple cotton.

As regards publicity, I admit, Sir, that we have been doing very little for the last few years. What was done previously was also abandoned probably by way of retrenchment. It is now proposed to give greater attention to publicity work. Without proper publicity it is not possible to bring to the people of Bengal the results that are obtained by research which naturally costs so much money to the province. Therefore the importance of publicity cannot be overemphasised.

As regards our cattle improvement scheme, it is proposed that an animal husbandry branch will be established, and in fact a start has already been given. Honourable members know that the schemes for cattle improvement have been introduced in 22 districts out of the Government of India grant for rural uplift. The policy of the previous Government in regard to the establishment of a herd of Sindhis has been abandoned by the present Government, as these did not prove suitable to this province; and they have decided to continue with the Hariana

breed. Steps have been taken in this direction to replace the Sindhi herd by the Hariana breed, and a sum of Rs. 53,120 has been provided for this purpose in next year's budget.

The improvement of poultry which forms a part of the animal husbandry work has also engaged the attention of the present Government. Prior to the new constitution the work in this direction was very meagre. The present Government have realised that the improvement of poultry will offer an important source of income to the cultivator, and a scheme for the improvement of poultry multiplication centres has been approved by Government at a total estimated cost of Rs. 85,225 and provision has been made in the next year's budget for the purpose.

So far as marketing is concerned, I may say that the work on marketing practically began in 1935 with the financial assistance received from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research under a Senior Marketing Officer with a small staff. This work is so far limited to the marketing survey of the principal agricultural commodities and grading of eggs, oranges, etc., and in order to supplement the work done with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research grant, four egg-grading stations have been started this year on a provincial basis. As the financial assistance received from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will cease after the close of the year 1939-40, an enlarged departmental scheme for agricultural marketing has been formulated and is under the consideration of the present Government. This scheme is expected to come into operation in 1940-41. Meanwhile Government are considering a Bill for the establishment of regulated markets which is expected to be presented to the Legislature at an early date.

Sir, it is also very important that some subsidiary occupation should be found for our cultivators who have to remain idle for several months every year. So far as this aspect of the question is concerned, it is really the Industries Department which can help them to a very great extent, and the Industries Department is trying to give effect to certain cottage industries schemes for this very purpose. So far as the Agriculture Department is concerned, it has directed its attention to poultry farming, as I have already said and also to fruit growing and breeding of goats. A scheme regarding the last item is under the consideration of Government, and I hope that a satisfactory solution will be arrived at within a short time.

Sir, I need not touch upon the other items that I have pointed out in the beginning of my speech, but probably honourable members expect that I should say something about jute restriction and the fixation of a minimum price for that commodity. I think, however, that

as there are some motions on this very question which will just be moved, it will be more proper if I reserve my remarks for that occasion than give my point of view just at present.

With these few words, Sir, I present the Agriculture Budget for 1939-40.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion on—

(*i*) want of provision for supply of good seeds to the agriculturists,

(*ii*) want of provision for soil survey, and

(*iii*) want of provision for marketing organisation whereby the agriculturists may get better and economic price for land products.

Sir, I am very glad to hear the Hon'ble Minister saying that Bengal is predominantly an agricultural province—— (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: You have heard it just now!)——yes, from the Hon'ble Minister. It need not have been told by the Hon'ble Minister that Bengal was predominantly an agricultural province. Bengal is known to be সুজলা সুফলা শস্য শ্যামলা বাংলা, from time immemorial. There was a time when Bengal was a highly prosperous country. Bengal had sufficient developed lands to give food to her children, so that the agriculturists could live a prosperous life, and with the prosperity of the agriculturists the whole nation prospered. But to-day we find that the basis of our socio-economic structure—I mean, the agriculture of Bengal—has so deteriorated that the agriculturists of our province are not getting even two meals a day. Sir, with the agriculturists every other section of the people has been driven to the point of starvation. The problem of agriculture is certainly a staggering one; and it is due to the deterioration of agriculture that the landlords are not getting their rents, the money-lenders are not getting their dues, and the professional men are not getting their fees which were used to be directly contributed by the agriculturists. Trade and industry also have been hit. So every section of the community is affected.

Sir, to-night I hear the Hon'ble the new Minister for Agriculture tell us that he has got a scheme to solve the problem of agriculture. He has told us of the nine items in the programme of his predecessor —why should I say, his predecessor, it is his predecessor's predecessor —that scheme is still held on and has been held up before us to-night as the panacea of all evils affecting the agriculturists. What do I find in those nine items? The Hon'ble Minister has said that the solution lies in giving education to whom?—to some young men to become experts in agriculture. But how will that alone help the agriculturists?

I ask the honourable members of this House who have come here as representatives of the rural people—if demonstration alone—demonstration certainly is necessary—without seeds is it not absolutely meaningless? You have many farms to demonstrate that such and such crop can be produced in better way with better seeds, but if you cannot supply those seeds to the agriculturists, what is the use of having demonstrations? Then as regards cattle breeding, to-day I am surprised to hear that the Hon'ble Minister has shown his solicitude for the cattle. But did he care a little when the cattle of Bengal were dying for want of fodder during the last floods? When cattle are dying for want of fodder, it is amusing that the Hon'ble Minister speaks of the necessity of breeding bulls—as if we are more in want of breeding bulls than of the cattle to be bred upon. (Laughter.)

Now, Sir, I would ask the members on the other side one question—do they consider that the problems which the Hon'ble Minister has mentioned are the main problems which affect the agriculturists of this province at the present day? Do they not think that the real problems are quite different and many in number? I shall narrate some of those problems and I shall ask them whether they are prepared to bear me out. Sir, in our opinion, the main problems which affect the agriculturists to-day are firstly, the fall in the fertility of the land for want of natural irrigation as well as want of artificial manure: secondly, the problem of supply and distribution of good seeds; thirdly, the problem of augmenting the agricultural wealth of the province by diversification of crops; and, fourthly, the problem of economic price for the land products. Of course, there are other problems, but these are the four main problems of which the agriculturists of this province need immediate solution. I shall wait to hear if any member on the opposite will contradict me and say that these are not the main problems.

Now, Sir, let us see what Government have done towards the solution of these problems. Of course, we do not expect much from the present Cabinet because we find that Agriculture is a department which no member likes to take charge of. When we thought of the prospective Minister of Agriculture, the first name that came to our mind was that of the Hon'ble the Premier who promised to give *dal bhat* (The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is ready.) to the peasantry, but he preferred the portfolio of Education and Registration for the purpose of showering patronage to the non-agriculturists. Does he not know that he was the only man in the Coalition Party whom the agriculturists of this province looked to as their own man? Was he not known as the people's man? Did he not promise to give the people *dal bhat*? If that was so, why did he not take the portfolio of Agriculture? He said at Sirajganj that he was not a *baburchi* and could not give them *dal bhat*. Was it becoming of the peoples' man? The second name, Sir, that struck us was that of yourself, but you

preferred to take up a position of reproaching us instead of being reproached by us. The third name that occurred to us was that of the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker. But he also preferred something else. So long as he was a barber, he used to talk of curing the malignant boils which disfigured the body politic of the society in Bengal, and we know that he cured some malignant boils whilst he was not a Minister. But as soon as he became a Minister he turned out as a modern surgeon. After becoming a modern surgeon, he hesitated to handle the knife to cure any of these boils, and took the position of an expert accountant—expert in balancing the budget, and for that he has got credit from Sir John Anderson. Evidently, he is satisfied with that. He has now forgotten what he thought of in the past, and he does not remember what he said, should be done to cure the economic evils of this province.

Sir, of the four main problems which, as I have already told the House, require immediate solution, we would suggest from this side appropriate solutions. Of the first problem, viz., increasing the fertility of land, the solution is irrigation and supply of manure. On irrigation, I shall not dwell at length to-night, because increased fertility of land requires resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers and canals. But that is the work of a department which is in charge of a Minister who says that he is helpless to undertake such work.

With regard to manure, we find no provision for it in the current year's budget. We expected that Government would provide for distribution of sufficient manure to the needy agriculturists.

Then, Sir, with regard to the problem of distribution of seeds, we find no solution in the form of provision in the budget. There are so many funds for other purposes, but no fund for distribution of seeds to agriculturists. We understand that the best seeds of agricultural produce are sold to a British firm who have got a monopoly business, and seeds are taken from them by the Government of Bihar and not by the Government of Bengal.

The third problem, Sir, viz., the problem of augmenting the agricultural wealth of the province by diversification of crops, is a problem which requires immediate solution, and this requires, in our opinion, a proper soil survey. In this connection, I shall quote what our Finance Minister, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker said in 1934. In his speech at a meeting of the Indian Institute of Economics, while advocating that besides paddy there were other substitutes for jute if jute restriction scheme was to be accepted, he said: "Investigations already made tend to show that certain districts offer splendid natural advantages for the expansion of the cultivation of such lucrative crops as linseed, mustard seed, tobacco and sugarcane..... An essential preliminary to such a scientific investigation is a comprehensive soil survey of the whole province, which, I may say, by the

way, is long overdue." He advocated a comprehensive soil survey then; but what do we find in the budget for soil survey? The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research granted lakhs of rupees to the Government of Bengal for such work. For the current year there is a provision of Rs. 68,000 under this head. Now, out of this amount of Rs. 68,000 he has provided Rs. 3,990 only for soil survey. Is that sufficient? I shall be very glad if the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will tell us whether it is quite sufficient for soil survey which he previously advocated.

Then, Sir, we come to the problem of uneconomic prices of land products. The solution is immediate arrangement for raising the prices of land products. The Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan has told us that the scheme is under preparation and that it will be given effect to in 1940-41. Does he wish that the agriculturists should wait till then and go on starving all these years—this year and the next year? Why these dilatory tactics? Why not tell the agriculturists not to expect anything by way of solution of their problems from Government? Sir, 90 per cent. of the land of this province is under rice cultivation and 8 per cent. under jute cultivation. But neither paddy nor jute can fetch economic price. The total annual production is about 100 lakhs of tons of paddy while Bengal's requirements are 120 lakhs of tons. So, Bengal is having a deficit of 20 lakhs of tons of paddy every year. Still the price of paddy is never economic. This is the real state of things and this could have been averted if Government had taken the trouble of applying the proper remedy. But that is not to be done by this Government. Sir, the cultivators are dying on account of uneconomic cultivation. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister tells us that the cultivators have not yet died. Alas! He does not know that they are dying slowly, because they are not getting two meals a day.

Now, what is the remedy? Will the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture believe that the prices of paddy could have been higher, but the prices have been depressed by the import of cheaper Burma paddy and rice? There has been a cry from the rural public for raising the price of the Burma rice. The import of Burma rice, however insignificant it may be in comparison with the requirements of this province——

(Here the speaker reached the time-limit and was allowed two minutes to finish his speech.)

Sir, although the Hon'ble the Finance Minister told the Upper House the other day that the import of Burma rice is very insignificant and that it cannot depress the price of rice here, I should ask the Hon'ble the Minister of Agriculture to ask the traders and they will tell him that the import of cheaper Burma rice alone depresses the price of rice here. So if the Government of Bengal are really serious to improve the condition of the paddy-growers of this province, they should take all steps to put pressure upon the Government of India to levy an import duty on Burma rice.

Then with regard to jute, what have the Government done up to this time for raising its price? The fall in the price of jute has been recognised by this Government since 1932 to be the main cause for the economic depression in this province and in 1932 the Finlow Committee was appointed to investigate into this problem, and you, Sir, were one of the members of the Committee. Both the reports—the majority and the minority reports—agreed in one respect, namely, that there must be restriction of production to the world demand and there must be organization for proper marketing. But what did Government do with the recommendations of that Committee? Overlooking the simultaneous organisation of marketing and compulsory restriction Government took up voluntary restriction, although they knew that voluntary restriction would be of no value because voluntary restriction had been resorted to previously since 1932 and failed. Still to-day voluntary restriction is going on. It has been admitted even by Government officers Collectors and even Jute Restriction Officers that voluntary restriction of production cannot succeed and failed I may tell you that the agriculturists told us, while we were out on tour in the interior, that they preferred compulsory restriction to voluntary restriction and they prayed that Government should not press for voluntary restriction again, because by voluntary restriction the good men amongst the agriculturists would suffer Government did not listen to their grievance. I may tell this House that while we were investigating this problem, our late Chairman of revered memory, Mr. Kindersley, felt on this point very keenly and he requested the then Hon'ble the Minister for Agriculture to provide for compulsory restriction of production of the jute crop for the next year as an experimental measure; and I heard from the late Mr. Kindersley that the then Hon'ble the Minister for Agriculture agreed to put up the matter before the Cabinet and to press for compulsory restriction at least as a temporary measure for one year. But the Cabinet did nothing for that. I met the Hon'ble the Premier one day in a Committee meeting and I requested him to adopt this compulsory restriction scheme for at least one year; he agreed to do so but eventually did not give effect to it.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about inadequate grant and want of definite scheme.

Many words are not necessary to explain the object of the cut motion moved by me.

In this budget only Rs. 16,69,000 has been provided for the province where 90 per cent. of the population are agriculturists. I would enquire seriously if any one here or outside would consider this grant adequate

and I know the answer would be an emphatic "no". If you go from district to district you would be disappointed to find that no serious attempt is being made anywhere to improve the condition of agriculture, and this, I am sorry to note, is entirely due to want of any definite scheme though it is admitted on all hands that material happiness of the province depends on the success of its agricultural ventures. I would request the members of the Cabinet to look to the activities and mode of work of other countries in the West and Japan in the East and draw inspiration from them. If there be no able officer available under the Government, though we find in the budget that many fat salaried officers are adorning the Secretariat office, let them engage foreign experts for a specified period to draw up a scheme by which we can really improve our agriculture. I would request Government to send out a large number of qualified students to the different parts of the world to study the problem and when they come back, send them out in the interior to push the work as missionaries.

It is unfortunate that here Agriculture and Irrigation Departments do not go hand in hand though they are inseparably connected. Even the experimental farms, and their number too is few, cannot be said to be very useful as the condition and situation of lands in our province are not as we find in a demonstration farm, until and unless the plots of land are so arranged where scientific and improved agriculture is possible nothing tangible could be done and I request the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister to take this question in hand at the time of the revision of the Tenancy Act.

I would request the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Agriculture to take the non-official experts into his confidence and try to draw up a scheme of work. Can we not expect from the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan to rise equal to the occasion and launch a bold scheme. The wealth of the nation has to be increased through agriculture and industry and we voice the demand of millions. He must fight the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for at least Rs. 50 lakhs for his department

It is no use spending the major portion of the allotment for maintaining a horde of white elephants. I mean the establishment alone including some so-called technical staff only to distribute some seeds here and there. We find no life in our administration—not even in the propaganda work, and we are simply dragging on our miserable existence and keeping it going on with an injection of "communal cry". I resume my seat by leaving the House to answer my question—why it is so and what are the remedies?

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের পূর্ব্বে এই বিভাগের মন্ত্রী ছিলেন ঢাকার নবাব বাহাদুর। তিনি একখানা পঞ্চসনা কার্য্যতালিকা প্রস্তুত কোরেছিলেন এবং বোলেছিলেন যে এই পাঁচ বৎসরের মধ্যে বাংলার সমস্ত কৃষকদের সমস্ত

দুরবস্থা মোচন কোরে তিনি তাদের ঘরে সুদিন এনে দেবেন, এবং তাদের চেহারার পরিবর্ত্তন কোরে দেবেন। সে পাঁচ বৎসর অতিবাহিত হবার পূর্ব্বেই দুই বৎসরের মধ্যে তাঁর স্থান অধিকার কোরেছেন—আমাদের জনপ্রিয় খাঁ সাহেব। তিনি হয় তো এই মন্ত্রীত্বের গদিতে তিন বৎসর থাকবেন, এই তিন বৎসরের জন্য আর একটা কার্য্য তালিকা তিনি প্রস্তুত করবেন। আর বাংলার অন্নবস্ত্রহীন, ভিটেমাটিশূন্য দরিদ্র নিপীড়িত কৃষকেরা, এই সাম্রাজ্যবাদী, ধামাধরা এবং সাম্প্রদায়িক গোপাল [illegible] প্রতি কেবল করুণ দৃষ্টিতে তাকিয়ে থাকতে হবে। কিন্তু তারা যে এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের দ্বারা কোনও প্রকারের উপকার পাবে সে বিশ্বাস আমার মোটেই নাই। দেশে গভর্ণমেণ্ট থাকার প্রয়োজন কি? আমি মনে করি—দুষ্টের দমন, শিষ্টের পালন এবং দুর্ব্বলের উপর প্রবলের অত্যাচার না হতে পারে—সেইজন্যই প্রত্যেক সভ্য দেশের গভর্ণমেণ্ট বিদ্যমান রহিয়াছে।

এই নীতির উপরই প্রত্যেক সভ্য দেশে গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠিত। কিন্তু আমাদের এই পরাধীন দেশে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কি নীতি দেখতে পাচ্ছি? দেখতে পাচ্ছি—গভর্ণমেণ্টের সাহায্যে দুষ্টের দুষ্টামি প্রশ্রয় পাচ্ছে। এবং প্রবলেরা দুর্ব্বলের উপর অত্যাচার করার সুযোগ পাচ্ছে। কৃষি বিভাগের ব্যয়বরাদ্দ হইতে আমার বন্ধু বিশ্বাস মহাশয় যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিয়াছেন, সেই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরতে উঠে আমি শুধু এই বোলতে চাই যে আমাদের কৃষকদের উন্নতিকল্পে যে সমস্ত কার্য্যতালিকা বা প্রোগ্রাম দেখান হচ্ছে তাদ্বারা প্রকৃতপক্ষে পল্লীর কৃষক জনসাধারণের কোন উপকার হবে না। প্রথমতঃ কৃষকদের কৃষিকার্য্য শিক্ষা দেবার জন্য যে সমস্ত লোক নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে তারা অধিকাংশই সহরে বন্দরে বাস করেন। তাঁরা পল্লীর জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বাস কোরে অনভিজ্ঞ কৃষকদের পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী জমিতে ভাল ফসল উৎপন্ন কোরে তাদের হাতেকলমে যদি শিক্ষা দিতে পারেন, এবং যদি দেখিয়ে দিতে পারেন যে—দেখ তোমাদের ক্ষেত্রে ফসল কত কম জন্মেছে, আর আমি যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ত্তৃক নিযুক্ত শিক্ষিত চাষী আমার এই পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী ক্ষেত্রে তোমাদের চেয়ে ফসল কত ভাল এবং বেশী উৎপন্ন হয়েছে দৃষ্টান্তদ্বারা উহারূপ দেখাইতে পারিলে তাহাদের দ্বারা উপকারের আশা করা চলে।

বন্ধুগণ, আমি আর একটা কথা বোলতে চাই যে কৃষকের প্রধান সম্বলই হচ্ছে গোরু। গোরু আর এখন এদেশে নাই বলিলেই চলে। আমাদের সরকার গভর্ণমেণ্ট বিদেশ থেকে বড় বড় ষাঁড় আনিয়েছেন, কিন্তু ঐসব ষাঁড়ের উপযুক্ত গাভী বাংলার নিরন্ন কৃষকের ঘরে আছে কি না সে বিষয় আগে হোতে চিন্তা কোরে দেখেন নাই। তৎপর যে সমস্ত গোরু অর্দ্ধমৃত অবস্থায় আছে তাদের ঘাসের কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই, পানির কোন বন্দোবস্ত নাই। যদিও বা মানুষের জন্য দুই একটা ইঁদারা বা টিউব ওয়েল তৈরী হয়ে থাকে কিন্তু পশুদের স্বাধীনভাবে জলপান কোরতে পারে—এরকম কোন ব্যবস্থাই করা হচ্ছে না। গোচারণের স্থানাভাবে শুধু শুকনো বিচালি খেয়ে গোরু কতদিন বাঁচতে পারে? তারপরে দেশী লাঙ্গল ফেলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বিলাত থেকে লাঙ্গল আমদানি কোরছেন, শতকরা ৯৫ জন বাঙালী কৃষকের সে লাঙ্গল বহন কোরে ক্ষেতে নেওয়ার ক্ষমতা নাই, কারণ অনাহারে ও ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভুগে কৃষক দুর্ব্বল হয়ে পড়েছে। তাছাড়া সে লাঙ্গল টানবার মতন গোরুও বাংলা দেশে নাই। এক এক ইউনিয়নে যে একটা কোরে ষাঁড় দেওয়া হয়েছে—তাদ্বারা তো আর তামাম ইউনিয়নের লোকের লাঙ্গল টানা হতে পারে না। আমাদের গোরীপুরের জমিদার বাবু ব্রজেন্দ্রকিশোর রায় চৌধুরী মহাশয় বোকাইনগর গ্রামে যে বাথান কোরেছেন সেখানে সেই জমিদার বাবুর বলিষ্ঠ গোরু ও সে লাঙ্গল টানতে পারে না। আমাদের কৃষ্ণপুরের জমিদার বাবু সুরেন্দ্রপ্রসাদ লাহিড়ী চৌধুরী মহাশয়ের বড় পুত্র নিজে চাষ কোরে কৃষিকার্য্য কোরছেন তিনিও অনেক চেষ্টা কোরে দেখে সেই বিলাতি লাঙ্গল ফেলে রেখেছেন। তারপর এই বিলাতি লাঙ্গল আমদানি করার আর একটা কুফল এই যে আমাদের দেশের ছুতার মিস্ত্রি যে শিল্পদ্বারা জীবিকা অর্জ্জন কোরেছিল, তাদের সেই শিল্পকে বরবাদ কোরে আমাদের সরকার গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ত্তৃক এই গরীব দেশের টাকাগুলো বিলাতে পেণ্ডারে দেওয়া হচ্ছে। আর আমাদের দেশের ছুতারদের

অন্ন কোরে খাবার ব্যবস্থাটাকে নষ্ট করা হচ্ছে। একেই তো উপযুক্ত ফসল না হওয়ার দরুণ কৃষকের অভাব ঘোচে না তার উপর বহুকষ্টে যে সামান্য পরিমাণ ফসল তারা উৎপন্ন করে তা বিক্রয় করা কোনরকম সুবিধা আমাদের কৃষককুলের নাই। যে জিনিষ আমরা বাজারে বিক্রয় করিতে যাই তার মূল্য কম পাই। আবার যে জিনিষ কিনিতে যাই তাহার মূল্য আমাদের বেশী দিতে হয়। তার কারণ যখন আমরা জিনিষ বিক্রয় করি তখন আমাদের জিনিষের দর দেয় ক্রেতা, আবার যখন আমরা কিনি তখনও জিনিষের দর দেয় বিক্রেতা। একই বাজারে আমাদের বেলায় দুইরকমের নিয়ম এ কেবল পরাধীন দেশ বোলেই সম্ভব হইতেছে। আমাদের অশিক্ষার সুযোগ নিয়ে আমাদের মাথার উপর কাঁঠাল ভেঙ্গে অনেকেই আজ খাচ্ছে। যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের বদল না হবে ততদিন পর্য্যন্ত আমাদের এদুঃখের অবসান হবে না। জমিদারের খাজনার তাড়নায়, পেটের ভাতের জন্য বা মহাজনের দেনা শোধের তাগিদে কৃষক যখন নিরুপায় হোয়ে তার মাথার ঘাম পায়ে ফেলে পাট মাথায় কোরে বাজারে যায় তখন বাজারে গিয়ে দেখতে পায় যে ধরিদ্দারদের মধ্য হ'তে একটী লোক একখানা কাগজ হাতে নিয়ে বাজারে ঘোরাফেরা করে—আর বোলতে থাকে যে এইমাত্র কলিকাতা হ'তে টেলিগ্রাফে খবর এসেছে যে প্রতিমণে এক টাকা কোরে দাম কোমে গেছে। প্রকৃতই টেলিগ্রাফি আসিয়াছে কি না অজ্ঞ কৃষক তাহা বুঝিতে পারিল না। ফলে যদি দশটার সময় দেখা যায় যে পাটের মণ তিন টাকা, ১২ টার সময় দর এক টাকা কোমে দুই টাকা হোয়েছে। কাজেই অনিবার্য্য কারণে যে সব গৃহজাত দ্রব্য অসহায় কৃষকগণ বাজারে বিক্রয় কোরতে বাধ্য হয়, সেগুলি গভর্ণমেণ্ট ইচ্ছা করলে গোলায় গচ্ছিত রাখার বন্দোবস্ত করতে পারেন এবং সময়মত বিক্রি করে কৃষককে বেশী টাকা পাওয়াইতে পারেন কিন্তু এই উদাসীন গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহা করিবেন কি?

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to move the motion standing in my name. However I want to speak a few words on the subject.

It is after all very difficult to speak on this budget with due restraint. The Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan has moved for a demand of Rs. 15 lakhs and odd thousands. At the same time he has said that ours is predominantly an agricultural country. Out of an expenditure of Rs. 14 crores a demand of Rs. 15 lakhs only for the Department of Agriculture shows indeed the love which the Government bear for the agriculturists of the country. Sir, I had very high hopes in the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan as I thought him really to be a friend of the agriculturists but am sadly disappointed to find that there is nothing in his demand or in his speech to raise up any ambition, any hope, any relief in the minds of the agriculturists of the country. It is sad indeed that being a man coming from the commoner classes, being a man in whom really the majority of the members build very high hopes, he has produced practically nothing. Of course he has excuses. He may say that at the time of the framing of the budget he was not the Minister in charge of Agriculture, but my friend Mr. Shamsuddin was then there. Unfortunately, I must say that he has also failed therein and he could not do anything.

Sir, very often we hear in this House from our friends of the Opposition Benches. (Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am here.)

Mr. Shamsuddin says he is here, and from Mr. Shamsuddin too we hear that the Britishers are the exploiters of the country. I do declare and I believe when I do declare that we ourselves, not the Britishers alone, are the exploiters of the masses. Not only the members here, not only the members there but every one is an exploiter of the masses. Let us be honest to ourselves and let us think within ourselves because we shall have to appear one day before our Judge, i.e., the final day, when we shall have to say that we have deluded the masses. In all the meetings we say that we are bleeding for these poor masses. Practically we shed crocodile tears for the masses. I say to the members on this side, to the members on the Coalition side, was it not our duty to see that large sums be provided in the budget for the interests of the agriculturists? It is a shame to say to ourselves that we are the people who frame the budget. Unfortunately we put forward the plea of ignorance at the time when the budget is framed.

Sir, unfortunately the time at my disposal is not much. Therefore I will touch upon only one aspect of the matter. The provision for grazing fields is one of the necessities. I ask my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan if he has provided anything to give food to the cattle because these cattle are really meant for the interests of the people inhabiting the land. Without good cattle you don't get good produce; without good cows you don't get good children because you don't get good milk; without good children you don't get good peasants and without good peasants you don't get a good country.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Shall I continue, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you have already taken a few minutes. I hope you will not take more than four minutes more.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Thank you, Sir. Sir, I was going to speak about the needs and necessities of the agriculturists, and by way of a suggestion may I tell my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, as to what should be done so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned? It has always been suggested and an attack has been levelled that suggestions are not forthcoming. If the Ministers themselves are not giving any suggestions to themselves, let us give suggestions to the Ministers. So far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned, we have stressed it more often than once—even during the last Budget Session that something must be done to improve the lot of the agriculturists by increasing and improving the produce from the land. We have said more often than once that what is most necessary in Bengal

to improve agriculture is the provision of water at the time of sowing. Sometimes it has been found that for want of rain we cannot cultivate our lands. This is particularly true so far as West and North Bengal are concerned. Of course, the condition of East Bengal is different. Sir, we have stated that we require nowadays more water not only for giving good water to the people for the purpose of drinking but also for the harvesting season. For that purpose irrigation is a necessity, but if that be said to be a very costly thing—I do not know, Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister is hearing me——

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the Hon'ble Minister is listening with rapt attention!

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I can at least suggest a scheme for the purpose of sinking tube-wells and masonry wells throughout the fields wherever they are necessary. It is not a new thing and a new suggestion. When I had been out on tour in Western India, I found masonry wells in the fields from which water was being drawn by cultivators for watering their fields. Cannot anything be done of that nature so far as Bengal is concerned? I therefore give a definite suggestion that for every 20 acres of land one tube-well or one masonry well should be provided, so that there might be no complaint from the agriculturists that for want of water they could not produce paddy or any other crop on their lands.

There is another point which I want to raise—that is the question of supply of good manure at the time of ploughing the lands, because so far as the manure is concerned, we are badly in want of it. As the race of cattle instead of being bred is dying out almost, therefore, the manure which we got from cattle we cannot expect to have. It is, therefore, the bounden duty of every Government who feel for the agriculturists to provide good manure all through and that can only be done by establishing agricultural farms in every union; if not, one farm for two or three unions; where there must be a good supply of manure. It is absolutely a huge waste of money, it is absolutely the want of any intelligence in the department concerned which is responsible for opening some new farms at the headquarters of the districts. This time there has been a provision of Rs. 58,000 for establishing a farm at Chittagong. I do not think my friends of Chittagong will be in any way benefited by the establishment of a farm of this nature; on the other hand, this sum of Rs. 58,000 ought to be distributed at four centres and four farms may be established so that with that sum of money you can have better results. Therefore, simple provision of money in the Budget without any scheme and without any brain is absolutely of no use, either to the people or to the Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the failure of the Government to adopt any comprehensive scheme for agricultural improvement and to ensure better price of raw jute for the cultivators.

Sir, I would at the outset draw your attention to one thing. If instead of making empty promises and shedding crocodile tears for the masses my honourable friends opposite and the Ministers whom they are backing would confine at least one per cent. of their efforts to resuscitate agriculture in the province many important things would have been by this time attained. If instead of directing most of their attention to questions like the percentage of Muslim appointments in Civil Courts and the percentage of Public Prosecutors greater attention would have been directed towards the paucity of agricultural provision, much better service to Islam and to Muslims would have been rendered. I find, Sir, that so far during the last two years we have had merely a catalogue of promises. We expected much better things from the new incumbent in the office. If any Minister that steps in just reads out a few notes prepared by his Secretary, I believe there would be no justification for the office of the Minister at all. I have compared very carefully the observations made by the Hon'ble Mr Tamizuddin Khan with the notes circulated last year by the then incumbent of the office, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, and I find that there is the same nine-point policy in a so-called three-year plan. I do not know if that three-year plan is a sister plan of the abortive five-year plan of the Industries Department, but, if the Hon'ble Ministers go on hugging that three-year plan, no good issue would come out of it.

I would like to draw your attention to the actual provisions in the Budget and how these have been utilized. I have examined the provisions in the Budget for the last five years, and I find that the provisions for agriculture have been hopelessly inadequate, and there has been hardly any sign of improvement—any appreciable sign of improvement—during the last two years. We find that in the year 1934-35 a provision of 13 lakhs 66 thousand was made under "Agriculture", which gives a percentage of ·96, or less than one per cent., of the total revenue receipts. In 1935-36 the provision was 10 lakhs 9 thousand, which gives a percentage of ·88 of the total revenue receipts; for 1936-37 the figures are 10 lakhs 32 thousand and ·85, for 1937-38, they are 11 lakhs 53 thousand and ·89; for 1938-39 they are 16 lakhs 27 thousand and 1·2, but the revised budget came to 14 lakhs 16 thousand and the percentage was reduced from 1·2 to nearly 1·0 in the revised estimate; and in 1939-40 we have so far provided in the budget Rs. 16 lakhs 69 thousand out of which Rs. 1,58,000 are meant for botanical and public gardens and half a lakh or so is coming from the Central Jute Committee and the Central Government Fund, leaving about 13 lakhs out of the revenue of this province for the real amelioration of the condition

of the agriculturists in rural areas. This works out, after having made enough provision for the additional income of Rs. 93 lakhs in the revenue receipts due to new changes, at 1·29 per cent. of the total revenue receipts of the province, viz., about 12 crores 85 lakhs.

On the contrary, when we examine the provisions made in the Budget for the other departments what do we find? We find that "Police" gets as much as 18 per cent. of the total revenue receipts of the province; "General Administration including Debt Settlement" gets 14 per cent.; "Education" gets 12·2 per cent.; "Civil Works" gets 12·3 per cent.; "Medical" gets 4·6 per cent.; "Public Health" gets 3·7 per cent.; "Jails" gets 2·9 per cent.; "Stationery and Printing" gets 1·87 per cent.; "Industries" gets 1·25 per cent.; "Co-operation" gets 1·2 per cent. Compared with these figures, Sir, "Agriculture" gets only 1·3 per cent. of the total revenue receipts of the province. However much we might shed our tears for the agriculturists and hold out promises galore about our intentions to serve them, unless we find more money for agriculture in the Agricultural Budget, no amount of promise is going to give us the much-needed relief in the rural areas.

Even out of the budgeted amount, Sir, I find that last year substantial sums were left unspent and on items which were much advertised in this House as things very much needed for the country, like jute census, regulated markets, and cattle improvement. For jute census we provided one lakh and only Rs 33,000 was spent; for regulated markets we provided a quarter of a lakh and nothing was spent; on cattle improvement a lakh and a half was provided, and Government could not find suitable schemes to spend more than Rs 65,000. I submit, Sir, that this is evidence of their utter lack of policy and an utter lack of planning, although there may be talk of a three-year planning, nine-point planning, and so on and so forth.

Moreover, if we examine the nine points mentioned by the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, we shall find that they do not stand scrutiny for a moment. Taking only one example, Sir, points like demonstration and publicity have been stressed twice over. I do not find any necessity for departmental "publicity" as such, in addition to "demonstration" unless "publicity" is meant to do something other than to serve the agriculturists by showing them in what direction researches have made progress.

I submit, Sir, that the Government have so far failed—and miserably failed—to tackle the problems connected with agriculture in all their aspects. In this connection I would only draw the attention of the present Minister-in-charge to the observations I made here in this House a year ago, i.e., on the 23rd of March 1938, in discussing the last Budget, and I would not emulate the Hon'ble Minister in the art of repeating old and stale arguments. My arguments at that time stand true even now, in spite of the lapse of twelve long months.

Coming now to the Budget figures, I further find that although there has been a small rise from the total figure of 16 lakhs 27 thousand in the Budget estimate of 1938-39 to 16 lakhs 69 thousand in the current year, if we look up carefully, we shall find that on two most vital items, viz., on agricultural demonstrations and on agricultural experiments and researches, the amount budgeted last year could not be spent, and this year's provisions make for no improvement. We granted 2 lakhs 68 thousand for agricultural demonstrations, but 1 lakh 47 thousand was ultimately found possible by Government to spend in this behalf. Again, we granted a sum of 2 lakhs 89 thousand on agricultural experiments and research, out of which only 1 lakh 64 thousand could be spent or ultimately provided for in the revised estimates. Such being the case, Sir, I submit that there is something very wrong in the whole Department of Agriculture, and the Government, instead of tinkering with petty reforms based upon reports drawn up by departmental officers, should have comprehensive policy adopted after a thorough overhaul of the entire administration of the department. Departmental officers have proved themselves to be thoroughly unfit to discharge the duties they have been placed in charge of.

I submit, Sir, that so long as the present system goes on, this is bound to be the case because between the Director of Agriculture and his subordinates there is hardly any co-operation. Between the two Deputy Directors there is no real division of functions. Between the research section and the demonstration section there is no co-ordination of work. Added to this the teaching of agriculture leaves much scope for improvement. Though there has been some attempt to improve the imparting of agricultural education by the starting of an institution at Dacca, yet there has been absolutely no attempt at improving the quality of the teaching staff. On the contrary, an inspector was appointed last year, who had absolutely no qualification for teaching—he was not even an ordinary matriculate! This kind of patronage in regard to appointments on grounds other than efficiency has been going on for a long time, and unfortunately it is going on still.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I have three minutes more to finish my speech?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already allowed you more time than I have done in the case of other speakers. I shall only allow you an extra two minutes to finish your speech.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir.

I now come to the other important problems which have been engaging every one's attention, viz., jute-restriction and the fixation of a minimum price for jute. I have recognised myself that there are

some obvious difficulties in the way of fixing a minimum price of jute straightaway, but, I submit, that Government here also have failed miserably in ensuring better price for jute to the cultivators, although it is well known to this House that through measures well known to this House and to the country at large, they showed their solicitude for providing better prices for manufacturers of jute products. There was an Ordinance promulgated in September last, Sir, and during its currency we pointed out that unless this Ordinance was followed up by suitable measures ensuring better prices for the agriculturists, the cultivators were not going to have any benefit out of it. My prophecy has come to be true, and, Sir, just before the sowing season prices have been forced up by artificial means. I am apprehensive that as a result of this the agriculturists will have no benefit and the voluntary jute restriction propaganda is again going to be a failure in entirety because of the unusual, uneconomic, and unnatural forcing up of prices late in the season. I submit, Sir, if Government were serious, some kind of immediate measure was possible by which they could raise the price of jute and could stabilise it. I had discussions on this with persons who claim to know and if any expert committee is prepared to examine proposals, I have my proposals which I would very gladly place before them. The Government may examine the proposals and after due consideration frame such measures by which the price can be stabilised. The Argentine and some other countries have taken steps for stabilising prices of linseed and such other crops through measures which entail very little responsibility on the Government, and yet very little difficulty in the way of stabilising prices in spite of the fact that there is a large world market and competition from all sources.

Mr. PATI RAM ROY: Agriculture

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে সম্বন্ধে যে ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে তাতে প্রকৃত যারা চাষী—যারা নিজের হাতে চাষ কোরে খায় তাদের কোন উপকার হয়েছে বোলে মনে হয় না। এই বিভাগে যে সমস্ত Officer গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে রাখা হয়, তাঁদিগকে কেবল কতক গুলি অফিস বসিয়ে তার কার্য্য নির্ব্বাহের জন্যই রাখা হোয়ে থাকে। তাঁরা যদি অফিসের কার্য্যনির্ব্বাহের দিকে সমস্ত শক্তি না দিয়ে যাতে দেশের চাষীদের শিক্ষা দীক্ষা হয় এবং চাষেরও উন্নতি হয় সেই দিকটা লক্ষ্য করেন তাহলে কাজ অনেক ভালো হতে পারে। আমাদের দেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে বিভিন্ন রকমের ফসল হয়। সেই সব স্থানের মাটি পরীক্ষা করার জন্য যদি উপযুক্ত সংখ্যক কর্ম্মচারী রাখা হয় এবং ঐসব বিভিন্ন স্থানের মাটি পরীক্ষা করিয়া যদি নির্ণয় করা হয় যে কোন রকমের মাটিতে কি রকমের ফসল ভালো রকম হ'তে পারে, তাহ'লে তার ফলে বাংলা দেশের ফসল উৎপন্নের পরিমাণ ও প্রকার উভয়েরই উন্নতি হবে বলে আমি বিশ্বাস করি। যেমন—যে জমিতে ভাল ধান হয় সেখানে, অন্য ফসলের চাষ কোরলে উৎপন্ন ফসলের পরিমাণ নিশ্চয়ই কম হবে। খুলনা এবং মেদিনীপুর জেলায় অনেক জায়গায় পাতির বা মেজের চাষ করা হয়। যদি পরীক্ষা কোরে দেখা যায় যে ঐ মাটিতে কি কি উপাদান আছে এবং কি কি সার দিলে অন্য জায়গার মাটিতেও ঐ জিনিষ উৎপন্ন করা যায় তাহলে বাংলার সব জেলার লোকেরাই খুব উপকৃত হবে।

আর একটা কথা এই যে আজ ক বছর ধোরে শুনে আসছি যে কতক গুলি রুনিয়ন কার্ব্বের পরিকল্পনা গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোরছেন। কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় যে এতদিন ধোরে পরিকল্পনাই চোলে

আসছে, কাজে পরিণত কিছুই হচ্ছেনা। যদি প্রত্যেক য়ুনিয়নে একটা কোরে আদর্শ কৃষিক্ষেত্র করা হয়, এবং যদি সেইসব আদর্শ কৃষিক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষিত demonstrator রাখা হয় তাহলে চাষীরা সেখানকার চাষের অবস্থা দেখে কি ভাবে উন্নত ধরণের চাষ কোরতে হয় তাহা অনায়াসেই শিখতে পারবে। বাংলা দেশের যারা নাকি চাষী তারা নামে মাত্র চাষী। মামুলি ধরণের চাষ তারা চিরকাল কোরে আসছে, বৈজ্ঞানিক প্রণালীতে চাষ কোরলে যে ফসলের পরিমাণ অনেক বেশী হয় সেটা জানেনা বোলেই তারা কোরতে পারছেনা। যদি য়ুনিয়ন আদর্শ কৃষিক্ষেত্রগুলি উপযুক্ত লোকের দ্বারা ভালো ভাবে পরিচালিত হয়, তাহলে চাষীরা সেখানকার চাষের অবস্থা দেখে কি রকম কোরে উন্নত প্রণালীতে চাষ করতে হবে, কোন মাটিতে কোন সার দিতে হবে, কোন ফসলের জন্য কি সারের দরকার এবং ঐসব সার কি কোরেই বা প্রস্তুত কোরতে হয়, বাড়ীর কাছে সে সব হোতে দেখে এবং সে সম্বন্ধের প্রত্যক্ষ জ্ঞান লাভ কোরে, আবশ্যক মতন নিজেদের কাজে সে জ্ঞান লাগাতে পারবে। তাই গভর্ণমেণ্টকে আমরা পুনঃ পুনঃ বোলছি অচিরে যাতে প্রত্যেক য়ুনিয়নে আদর্শ কৃষিক্ষেত্র খোলা হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করা হোক।

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about fixing minimum price of jute at Rs. 10 per maund immediately

এসম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে, বাংলা দেশ কৃষি প্রধান দেশ, বাংলার গ্রাম কৃষকে পরিপূর্ণ, বাংলার প্রধান জীবিকা হইল কৃষি। পৃথিবীতে ভারতবর্ষই সর্ব্বোৎকৃষ্ট দেশ এবং ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে বাংলাই হইল সর্বপ্রকারে উন্নত ও শ্রেষ্ঠ ও কৃষিপ্রধান দেশ। সুতরাং সেই বাংলার সমৃদ্ধি রক্ষা করিতে হইলে কৃষি ছাড়া আর অন্য কোন প্রতিকার নাই।

বাংলার কৃষির মধ্যে পাটই সর্ব্বপ্রধান কৃষি। এই পাটই বাংলার সমৃদ্ধি রক্ষা করিয়াছে, পাটই বাংলার বহু মিল চালাইবার সুযোগ দিয়াছে। ও বহু কর্ম্মচারীর ও লক্ষ লক্ষ শ্রমিকের জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহের সংস্থান করিতে পারিয়াছে। এবং পাটই বাংলার এবং ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোটি কোটি টাকা রাজস্ব বৃদ্ধি করিয়াছে। ১৯২৮।১৯২৯ সনে পাটের দর ২০৲ ২৫৲ কি ৩০৲ টাকা প্রতি মণ বিক্রি হওয়ায় গভর্ণমেণ্টের রাজস্ব, জমিদারের খাজনা, মহাজনের পাওনা আশাতীতরূপে আমদানী হইয়াছে, এবং ব্যবসায়ী, কৃষক, শ্রমিক, সকলেই যথোচিত অর্থ পাইয়াছেন। তখন সকলের মুখেই হাসি ছিল, সকলেই সজ্জন ছিল, আজ আর সেই পাটের দর নাই। কি কৃষক, কি শ্রমিক কারো পেটে অন্ন নাই, দেনা পাওনার আদান প্রদান নাই, কোন প্রকারেই আয়ের পথ নাই। তাই জমিদারদের মুখেও হাসি নাই, ব্যবসায়ীদের আনন্দ নাই। কাজেই কৃষকের সম্পত্তি নিলাম বিক্রী হইয়া অর্থশালীর হস্তগত হইতেছে। আর কৃষকগণ ছিন্নবস্ত্রখণ্ড কাঁধে করিয়া রাস্তায় রাস্তায় ঘুরিতেছে। অনাহারে, বিবস্ত্রে, বিনা চিকিৎসায়, বিনা পথ্যে, কলেরা, ম্যালেরিয়ার ও বসন্তে ঝুপিয়া অকালে মৃত্যু মুখে পতিত হইতেছে। কাজে কাজেই ঋণ-শালিশী আইন ও মহাজনী (money-lenders) আইনের দাবী (Demand) ও আবশ্যকতা অতিমাত্রায় বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। অনির্দ্দিষ্ট পাটের মূল্য ও শস্যের মূল্যদ্বারা নির্দ্দিষ্ট খাজনার টাকা ও কর্জ্জ পরিশোধে কৃষকগণ সম্পূর্ণ অক্ষম হইয়া পড়িয়াছে।

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিবার প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য হইল পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য আইনদ্বারা নির্দ্ধারণ করা। তাহা করিবার পথে অনেকেই অনেক কথা বলেন, কিন্তু পৃথিবীতে যুক্তি-তর্কের অভাব নাই, কোন কার্য্য করা কি না করা দুইদিকেই যুক্তি বা তর্ক চলিতে পারে—কিন্তু আবশ্যকতা ও প্রয়োজনীয়তা মিটাইতে হইলে বিরুদ্ধ যুক্তি তর্ক বাদ দিয়া কার্য্যে অগ্রসর হইতে হইবে। গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রয়োজনই হইল মানুষের সকল প্রকার সুবিধা করার জন্য অভাব

ও দুর্ভিক্ষযোগ দূর করিবার জন্য, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি শুধু অমূলক যুক্তির অবতারণা করিয়া বাংলার প্রায় ৩০ কি ৩৫ লক্ষ কৃষক পরিবারের আর্ত্তনাদে অবহেলা করেন তাহা হইলে ইহা বাংলার গভর্ণমেণ্টের নির্দ্দয়তা ও অকর্ম্মণ্যতারই পরিচয় হইবে।

আমরা জানি ১৯২৬ সালে সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা অধিক পাট উৎপন্ন হইয়াছিল। ঐ সনে সমগ্র ভারতবর্ষে ১ কোটি ২১ লক্ষ ৩২ হাজার বেল উৎপন্ন পাটের মধ্যে কেবল বাংলা দেশে ১ কোটি ৬ লক্ষ ৫২ হাজার বেল পাট উৎপন্ন হইয়াছিল, এবং ১৯৩১ সালে সমগ্র ভারতবর্ষে সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা কম পাট উৎপন্ন হইয়াছিল। ঐ সনে সমগ্র ভারতে ৫৫ লক্ষ ৩৫ হাজার উৎপন্ন পাটের মধ্যে কেবল বাংলা দেশে ৪৯ লক্ষ ৮৬ হাজার বেল পাট উৎপন্ন হইয়াছিল। সুতরাং দেখা যায় যে, সমস্ত উৎপন্ন পাটের শতকরা ৯৫ ভাগ পাট কেবল বাংলা দেশেই উৎপন্ন হইয়াছিল। সুতরাং বাংলাদেশের পক্ষে বাধ্যতামূলক পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ কোন প্রকারেই বিপদজনক নহে।

এই Agricultural Department র মাননীয় ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীর অনেকবারই পরিবর্ত্তন হইয়াছে, কিন্তু এই বিভাগের কার্য্যের কিম্বা অবস্থার বিন্দুমাত্রও পরিবর্ত্তন হয় নাই। আরও দুঃখের বিষয় এই Department টী সর্ব্বদাই মুসলমান মন্ত্রীর হাতেই পরিচালিত হইয়া আসিতেছে। তথাপি কৃষকদের কোন দাবীই পূরণ হইতেছে না।

আমাদের মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেব বলিয়াছিলেন, বাংলায় পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ হইতে পারে না। কেন না আসাম এবং বিহার যতক্ষণ পাটের মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ না করিবে ততক্ষণ বাংলাদেশে বাধ্যতামূলক দর হইতে পারে না। বোধ হয় সেই অসুবিধা দূর করিবার জন্যই মৌলবী সামসুদ্দিন আহাম্মদ সাহেব বিহার ও আসামের কৃষি মন্ত্রীদিগকে লইয়া কলিকাতায় একটি মিটিং করিয়াছিলেন এবং জানিতে পারিয়াছিলাম যে, পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ করিতে তাঁহারাও সম্মত হইয়া গিয়াছিলেন। আমরা আশা করি আমাদের বর্ত্তমান মাননীয় কৃষি মন্ত্রী সাহেব অতি সত্বরই উক্ত বিষয়ের প্রতি মনোযোগ দিয়া একটা আদর্শ স্থাপন করিবেন।

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi AFTAB HOSAIN JOARDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not move the motion standing in my name, but I only like to raise a discussion about the procedure adopted by Government in taking jute census.

The scheme for jute census aims at the material progress and interest of the growers of jute no doubt. But what is actually coming to happen? The poor growers, far from getting any benefit, are going to have a total and progressive ruination day by day. The reason for this is not, I think, very far to seek. Sir, the procedure adopted in taking and publishing jute census has many defects which have stood in the way of the scheme itself and thus prevented the achievement of the aim.

The census is collected through union boards, but the union boards leave such an important matter safely into the hands of the illiterate chowkidars who can never collect the right information nor can they form any idea as to how they should proceed. And thus the census figures are never even approximately correct, and the result is that the market fluctuates in such a manner that some non-Bengalis make money.

But what about the poor growers? They watch and see the speculations and the fluctuations of the market, and, in the long run, they incur heavy losses.

Again, Sir, the census report is not published on a single day. It takes more than a week to be wholly published, and only portions are published every day, and this sort of publication of the report leads people to indulge in speculations with the result that non-Bengali people make huge profits out of them, and, I may add, at the cost of the growers of jute. I would, therefore, suggest that responsible persons other than the chowkidars or the like may be entrusted with the business of collecting the census.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shamsuddin, will you be able to finish your speech in five minutes?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Give him about seven minutes' time.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Give him a time between five and seven minutes.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Give me about ten minutes' time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Try to be brief.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The House knows very well that I was Minister of Agriculture for three months. I, along with my brother, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, was sworn in on the 17th November, 1938, and I resigned my office on the 17th February, 1939,—exactly three months.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: You are getting impatient.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I hope, Sir Bijoy, will hold his patience for a while. I know he is in the Treasury Bench now. I have never become impatient.

I want to disillusion my friends here about certain things. Possibly my friends are under the impression that at the time of the final framing of the budget I happened to be the Minister for Agriculture and my friend Mr. Tamizuddin Khan was the Minister for Medical and Public Health. I must tell this House without divulging any Cabinet secret that according to the practice that is in vogue everything was done by October. Nothing was left to us so far as allotment of funds was concerned. Of course the schedule portion was done. I very well

understand that it was certainly not possible for us (neither for Mr. Tamizuddin nor for myself) to put in new schemes or anything of the sort. Of course, the allotments were discussed in a Cabinet Meeting where we were present. I do not want to say what I told the Cabinet then and there. I know as a matter of fact that this Department of Agriculture has been neglected all along. Even to-day the money that has been granted is really very meagre. Certainly there are difficulties and my friend, Mr. Abdul Latif Biswas, about whom I had to speak the other day, said that I spoke about the fixing of the minimum price of jute somewhere in Munshiganj. I say that this is a downright and deliberate lie. At that meeting the Chief Minister was present. I never said that anywhere. Even to-day the proper restriction of jute cultivation——

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: You said that at the Hajiganj meeting.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: From Munshiganj you go to Hajiganj and then go to some other Ganj. Stick to one Ganj. Do not talk nonsense or rubbish.

So far as I myself am concerned, I knew that the time was very short for the introduction of any scheme of compulsory restriction of jute, but even then I drew up a scheme which got the sanction of the Finance Minister, to have an officer in each thana and an Inspector in every subdivision who would form the basis of the future restriction of jute cultivation. Everybody knows that unless a census is taken of the acreage and the total amount of production, it is really difficult to ascertain what ought to be the price. That is the reason why certain requisite things have to be done.

Sir, I do not know what has been done. So far the Agriculture Department is concerned, I may say that possibly the directions I gave to the Director of Agriculture and the Livestock Expert about the improvement of agriculture and about the improvement of cattle of this province are on the agenda of the Board of Agriculture. I know the limitations of the Government of India Act. I know that Ministers cannot do whatever they like, but even then it is certainly high time that a large amount of money is provided for the agricultural improvement in preference to money spent on higher education if we are to make the millions of cultivators have one full meal a day and proper clothing. Sir, I do not want to take up much time of the House. My friends are probably thinking that as the budget was framed at the time when I was a Minister the blame ought therefore to rest on me. But I want to assure my friends—and the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan will bear me out in this matter—it is no use criticising me. If you want to criticise, criticise the structure, the Cabinet as a whole,

the system as a whole. For two years before I went in, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur was in charge of the Department of Agriculture. I do not want to apportion any blame to the Nawab Bahadur. I say it might be due to the system as a whole that is in vogue that you don't have enough money for agriculture. If I had continued as the Minister for one more year and not presented a satisfactory budget, then the blame would have been mine. (KHAN BAHADUR MOHAMMED ALI: Would the system have changed if you have continued in office?) Yes, the system can be changed—not that I shall be able to revolutionalise things in a day. But if you have men who can prepare schemes, if you have men who can visualise things, if you have men who feel for the country, if you have men who think it their duty, day in and day out, that they should do good to this country, certainly they can do a lot. My friend Mr. Mohammed Ali may shout, but I may tell him that it is nothing very difficult. I know the limitations of the Government of India Act, as I have already said, but within the limitations of the Act you can do great things in this province. I have already said about the Cabinet. You know very well, Sir, why I came out of the Cabinet—a Cabinet which did not try to honour an agreement that was entered into, a solemn settlement that was arrived at. I don't want to say anything more. You on the Coalition Benches are all supporters of the Cabinet. If you can wring out of them whatever you want, well and good; if not, thank your stars".

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, there is a saying in Bengali কানু বিনা গীত হয় না meaning that there is no song without reference to Kanu. So in this House, whatever may happen whether it is the omission of making a soil survey or the resignation of a Minister the Finance Minister must be responsible. So I want to say a few words on behalf of the department administered by my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan. As a personal reference has been made to me, I want to give some explanation. Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas quoted me from a speech which I delivered in 1935 where I said that soil survey was necessary, and he stated that as soon as I accepted the office of Minister, and became a scientific doctor, I forgot all about those things which I as a quack prescribed. I want to assure my friend that soil survey is not a matter which can be purchased in the Madaripur mela, or in some exhibition, or fair, or in a shop. For conducting a soil survey some preliminary steps are necessary. In the very first budget which I presented as Finance Minister I provided Rs. 15,000 yearly to the Dacca University for investigation of soil problems. I think some preliminary work has been done to enable conducting the soil survey. This year, as my friend has pointed out, I have provided Rs. 4,000 to study the soil problem in the Dacca Farm. Then Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal says that we do not spend much on the Agricultural Department. Sir, I want to impress on this

House—and I have done so before also—that these things, namely, agricultural education, production, distribution, etc., are not such as can be purchased from a market if only you have the money. If you want to train the cultivators and to show them how they can improve their methods of cultivation, you have to send men round for training the cultivators. They cannot learn from books. If you want to send men round, these men have to be trained. All these things cannot be done in a year's time. I can assure this House, that so far as agriculture is concerned, we have got a very good and comprehensive scheme. Whatever money we have provided for in this year's budget is for a section of that scheme. It is not without purpose that we have provided for this and other things. There is not much time, otherwise I would have shown to you that every item for which I have provided forms part of some comprehensive scheme.

Coming to the expenditure side, I can say, Sir, that the actual expenditure on agriculture in 1936-37, that is the year previous to our acceptance of office, was Rs. 10,60,000. In these two years we have spent Rs. 6,09,000 more on new schemes. But what do we find elsewhere? In Bombay—the province which generally gets credit for doing much more than what we are doing—the expenditure under this head has gone down by Rs. 62,000. In Madras the increase during the last two years is only Rs. 6,000. Even according to schemes, I will show you that in Bombay in the current year, that is the year which is running, they have provided Rs. 76,000 for four new schemes and for seven new schemes in the coming year, i.e., 1939-40, they have provided Rs. 53,000. Then, Sir, as regards Madras, in 1938-39 for seven schemes they have provided Rs. 57,000. In 1939-40 they have provided Rs. 10,000 for three new schemes we have provided 2 lakhs 64 thousand for 22 new schemes in 1938-39 and 2 lakhs 32 thousand for 32 new schemes in 1939-40.

I never claim that we are so many super-men like Roosvelts, Hitlers or Mussolinis that we can change the face of the earth overnight! What I claim is that we are ordinary Ministers like the Ministers of Bombay and Madras. What they could not do overnight, we could not be expected to do overnight. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then accept their salary.) That brain is necessary for carrying out big schemes, I admit. When a democratic institution is run by persons who are elected, not the best men generally are elected.

Mr. Bari must know that in a democratic election, and particularly in a country like ours where communalism, sectionalism and class differences are so great, you do not always get the best men to take on the responsibility of running the Government. It is men like Mr. Bari or like myself who will be at the helm of affairs. I challenge Mr. Bari if he could produce a better programme for the Agriculture Department than we have done——.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You should resign.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Resign in favour of whom? For those who are not competent enough to discharge these duties? I am absolutely sure that the gentlemen who cannot state facts and argue correctly, who cannot quote correct figures, who do not know how to scrutinise the budget, will not be able to do better work than what we are doing.

Sir, my work is lightened by the advent of my friend Mr. Shamsuddin because one of the resolutions is that the price of jute must be fixed at Rs. 10. That is a hardy annual. I can only say that when the price of manufactured jute is only Rs. 10-8, you cannot sell or fix the price of raw jute at Rs. 10. I hope Mr. Asmuddin will agree with us—even his leader agreed with us when he was the Minister in charge of Agriculture—that it is impossible to fix a minimum price of jute under the prevailing conditions. (Interruptions from the Opposition Benches and Dr. Sanyal particularly.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, I shall have to take the help of the Psychology Department of the University to find out what is wrong in you, Dr Sanyal, and why you have been interrupting every time the Hon'ble Finance Minister is on his legs. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr Shamsuddin has said that he is not responsible for this budget I say it is not only the Agriculture Budget which has been framed with his consent, but also the entire budget which I have presented to you had the approval of Mr Shamsuddin I challenge him to say if he ever raised one single protest against one single item of this entire Budget

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has challenged Mr Shamsuddin on a matter which will only lead to the disclosure of Cabinet secrets.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: It is my business, and not Dr. Sanyals to see to that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is everybody's business.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, when I am on my legs, I request you at least to observe the constitutional etiquette which should be shown to the Speaker.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I hope, Sir, it applies to both sides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, certainly. What I want to say is that Mr. Sarker has merely stated that Mr. Shamsuddin did not object to the budget; he has not as yet disclosed any Cabinet secret. I do not know what he would have done, but you have warned him in time.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: May I rise to a point of personal explanation, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not at this stage but after the Hon'ble Minister has finished.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr. Shamsuddin complained that the expenditure schedules were prepared for submission to the Finance Department before Mr. Shamsuddin became a Minister The Schedules meetings commenced from the 11th of January, I believe, and even up to that date, as my friend Mr. Tamizuddin Khan will bear me out, I have allowed expenditure schedules relating to some of his schemes to be submitted. But Mr. Shamsuddin did not press for any such scheme. If Mr. Shamsuddin had come forward with any schemes I would certainly have accepted them. As a matter of fact, he put forward two schemes in the ordinary course one with regard to the Veterinary Department for Veterinary Surgeons costing about Rs. 3,64,000, ultimately and I accepted it; he prepared a scheme for voluntary restriction of jute cultivation, and I have accepted that scheme and have allotted Rs. 50,000 therefor, though I heard him say subsequently that he had induced members of the Proja Party throughout the province to come and accept office in every thana under that scheme!

With these words, Sir, I conclude, and I leave it to my hon'ble colleague to speak for his department.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. As I have already said, I resigned from the Cabinet, and it is no use bringing charges and counter-charges. Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker is the Finance Minister, and I do not understand what he meant by saying that I gave my consent to the schedules. The main portion of the business was all done by the Secretariat—it is absolutely correct. For Mr. Sarker it is absurd to say that I did not object, but it is impossible for me to substantiate my statements here as I shall not be allowed to bring witnesses to bear me out.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, my burden has been lightened to a very great extent by the able speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker. (MR. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: That is an advantage.) Yes, that is. My friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas launched his attack with the statement that giving agricultural education to students cannot be a panacea for the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists of this province; but at the same time he says that demonstration farms are necessary. I want to ask my friend Mr. Biswas,—who will run these demonstration farms unless men are trained in educational institutions? Of course, it is very easy to criticise——.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When our suggestions are not accepted, what else can we do —

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, Mr. Biswas also pointed out certain so-called defects of the department, viz., that nothing is being done for natural irrigation, or artificial manure, or distribution of jute seeds. I do not understand what he actually meant by all these statements. Does he mean that the Bengal Government should distribute seeds free to all and sundry? (MR. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: We do not say so.) If he does not say so, then his accusation is absolutely baseless. So far as the question of seed is concerned, every one not only in this House but throughout the country knows that in certain matters such as jute and other important commodities, it is the departmental seed which holds the field. (Cries of "No", "No" from the Opposition Benches. I welcome interruptions. (BABU NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: একি কথা শুনি আজি মন্থরার মুখে) If, of course, interruptions were made one after another, I could have got an opportunity to reply to them. However, so far as the distribution of jute seeds is concerned. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Bazar seeds are taken by the department and then sold.) That is an allegation which will not be borne out by facts. Of course, jute seeds come from Purnea. My friends have not referred to that, and perhaps many of them may not know that, but this is a fact. All those improved seeds were evolved in the Agricultural Farm at Dacca. Jute seeds are grown at Purnea now because the conditions there are more favourable for the production of these seeds. But that does not mean that these seeds are purchased from the open market and then distributed by Government.

Then as regards manure, artificial manure-making is also one of the principal items in the demonstration programme of the province. My friend Mr. Biswas's last charge was that nothing was being done as regards soil survey. Soil survey is certainly a very complicated and large problem. What the Government have hitherto been able to do

in this direction is the appointment of a committee consisting of the Director of Agriculture and the representatives of the Dacca and Calcutta Universities, and the results of the enquiry of that committee are being awaited by Government.

Then my friend also raised the question of fixing a minimum price of paddy, a minimum price of jute——

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I never said that.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: Whom does the Hon'ble Minister mean by "my friend"?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I mean Mr. Biswas.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: But I never said that.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is all right then. That is an end of the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Then was it from imagination that I mentioned Mr. Biswas? I took down notes of his speech.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I only said that demonstration farms ought to be encouraged.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, I can certainly allow you to rise on a point of personal explanation, but I think honourable members ought to know that a personal explanation is permissible only when that is in the nature of pointing out mistakes. You have said what you had to say, and the Hon'ble Minister has replied to you, and there is an end of it.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: However, as I have referred to that point, I shall deal with it just now. Many honourable members have raised that question about the fixation of a minimum price of jute.

Those of my friends who think that a minimum price of jute can be fixed without, first of all, restricting the cultivation of jute are, I think, labouring under delusions. My honourable friend, Mr. Asimuddin, proposes that the minimum price of jute should be fixed at Rs. 10 per maund. I think he has not said a single word about compulsory restriction of the cultivation of jute. To my mind, Sir, if, without restricting the production of jute, a minimum price is fixed at

Rs. 10 per maund, the result will be disastrous. No one will purchase jute, and my friend can easily realise how deplorable will be the condition of the jute-growers when they find that there is absolutely no market for their jute. Of course, if the proposal is: fix any minimum price, that is certainly feasible, fix Rs. 2 as the minimum price, that is certainly possible, but that will not meet the demands of either of my friend over there nor of anybody else in this country. Therefore, what is first of all necessary is to regulate the production and that—it must be admitted by one and all—is a difficult proposition. That does not, however, mean that I rule out the idea altogether. I admit that the results that were expected out of the scheme for voluntary restriction have not been obtained in their entirety, and so far as the current year is concerned, although Government are pursuing the policy of voluntary restriction, I should mention before the House that, in defence to the wishes of the Coalition Party, Government are not going to spend any money for employing outsiders for the carrying out of this scheme. Only Government officers will be employed for carrying out the propaganda. So far as the question of compulsory restriction is concerned, I can assure the House that that question is being examined. My honourable friends certainly know that a jute committee has been appointed, and it is now continuing its work, and probably honourable members also know that my friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas is not only a prominent member of that committee, but is also one of its vice-presidents. Two of the terms of reference of that committee are fixation of a minimum price of jute and compulsory restriction of production of jute.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will finish soon.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, Sir. As I was saying, it can now be easily realised that before that committee submits its report it will not be proper for Government to come to any decision. But Government are in the meantime not sitting idle; they are going into certain preliminaries, and as soon the committee submits its report, Government will take as early steps as possible to frame a scheme on the recommendations of the committee.

Sir, I am really sorry that it is not possible for me to refer to all the points, but I hope you will allow me to refer to one point about which there is so much misunderstanding in this House, viz., pasture lands. The charge against Government is why are there no pasture lands throughout the length and breadth of the country for our cattle. It is no longer an economic proposition. An acre of pasture land will not maintain even a single head of cattle, whereas an acre of land on which fodder crops are grown, e.g., Napier grass, will maintain several heads of cattle. Sir, the policy of Government is now to

encourage the production of fodder crops and not to lay aside fallow lands for purposes of pasture, which is not at all an economic proposition.

One word more, Sir. I am thankful to those of my honourable friends who have made constructive suggestions. I will take those suggestions into consideration, and those that are found to be practicable will certainly be accepted by Government.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Asimuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 15,78,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 15,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" was then put and agreed to.

41—Veterinary.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,90,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary."

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,90,000 under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the Government's not giving sufficient attention to improvement and protection of cattle in Bengal.

I submit, Sir, that animal husbandry is one of the prime necessities of every civilised country and especially it is so in Bengal, because the country as a whole depends on agriculture. So long as the agriculture of our country is not mechanised, buffaloes and bullocks must play an important part. Therefore, it is expected that any Government which will try to improve the financial position of the country must give whole-hearted attention to the improvement of its live-stock. Unfortunately in this province it is neglected from the beginning of the

Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. Since the inception of the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme, the Government in the Veterinary Department have confined their activities to the training of some veterinary surgeons and supplying some stud bulls to some farms under the district boards and union boards, but in practical life we have seen that those bullocks and stud bulls have proved a total failure for the purpose for which they were imported. The utter neglect of the subject of veterinary has resulted in the complete deterioration of the live-stock—the bullocks and buffaloes. In 1930 there was a live-stock census, and it gives us a lamentable table. If we consider the result of the previous census we find that the number of Brahmani bulls decreased by 11 per cent., the plough cattle decreased by 1 per cent., the milch cattle decreased by about 2 per cent, sheep decreased by about 14 per cent., goats decreased by 10 per cent., horses and ponies decreased by 10 per cent., mules by 8 per cent., donkeys by 11 per cent., camels by 42 per cent., and other live-stocks were found similarly to decrease by large percentages. This decrease, I think, is due to not giving any attention to the treatment as well as to the grazing problem of the cattle of our country. When epidemic diseases break out in any locality, it becomes very difficult to find a veterinary surgeon or, if there be any, it is very difficult to take him to that locality where cattle die in hundreds and thousands. At the same time medicines and other articles of treatment are not available specially in villages, and whenever anything is required for treatment, people have to depend on quacks and jungly medicines.

Similarly, no grazing ground is now found in villages. Zemindars have practically rented out all grazing grounds; at the same time, artificial food or fodder crops for the cattle which are required for the improvement of the live-stocks have not been very extensively introduced in our country. Government are doing nothing in this direction. It has become fashionable nowadays to have a few agricultural farms in the district headquarters, and the inhabitants of the towns are not acquainted with the leisurely and fashionable officers of the Agricultural Department. I submit, in my own subdivision, I learn that there is an agricultural demonstrator, but unfortunately I could not meet him, although I tried to do so for the last six months. I do not know where he lives, or what he does. It is very difficult to find these out. Therefore, the mere posting of such officers in district headquarters can serve no useful purpose for the country.

Now, Sir, animal husbandry has also got a commercial side. We see every year a large number of bullocks and buffaloes are imported from Bihar and the United Provinces. I think, lakhs of rupees are drained away from our province on account of this. If Government take a little care and try to improve the live-stock of our country, this sort of drainage can be stopped. Again, there are other live-stocks which are imported from other countries and for which we spend a

large amount of money. Such is the case with race horses, and we may draw your attention to this. We import race horses worth several lakhs of rupees from Australia and other places. Similarly, we see fashionable dogs are imported from foreign countries at high prices. If Government take a little care and make some experiments, these important animals, including the birds and other animals that are used for other purposes, need not be imported from other countries, and our province might be spared this huge drainage.

I may refer to another matter in this connection. There are some live-stocks which are used for human consumption, and these are also imported from other places. We see a large number of goats and sheep are imported from the United Provinces and Bihar every year. Our money is drained away in various ways, but Government are not taking any steps to stop this drainage. They are not doing anything to improve the indigenous live-stock that we have got in our country. It is reported that about 45,000 students are going to appear in the Matriculation Examination this year. We can, therefore, presume that the unemployment problem will become more acute very soon. We always talk about percentages in services. If Government take care about animal husbandry, a large number of students may be employed in that connection. With these words, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,90,000 under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of training cultivators in the treatment of cattle diseases.

Under this demand there is no new scheme. Everything that is there is stereotyped. Only three provincialisation quarters are to be constructed; and the District Veterinary Staff is the only other thing. I do not know to what extent will the province benefit by these two items. Last year, in reply to the cut motions under this head, the then Minister, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, said that he would take into consideration the question of the organisation of the Veterinary Department and other suggestions made by the honourable members. Mr. Charu Chandra Roy's suggestion was that there should be one Director of Agriculture at the top and under him there should be five Assistant Directors. Then there will be one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in each thana and a charitable dispensary. A year has since elapsed and luckily the portfolio has changed. The Hon'ble Minister who was then in charge of this portfolio has now taken another portfolio and is not answering these things.

May I ask the present Minister what has been done as regards the suggestions that were put forward last year during the budget session? There is only one suggestion that I shall make and it is this: there is

only one veterinary doctor in a subdivision, but there is nobody to check him. His time is spent in all play because he has no work to do. Hence, during the course of three years he manages to forget everything regarding cattle treatment. I would suggest that each thana doctor in charge of a subdivision should be instructed to be out on tour in his area for not less than 15 days a month and that he should hold meetings of agriculturists with the help of the chowkidars under union boards and president-panchayets and instruct the cultivators about the simple method of treating cattle diseases. This will be the least expensive and the best way of spreading knowledge on the subject among the cultivators. And if he be supplied with slides and lanterns, the lectures will be interesting, entertaining, and at the same time instructive. These are small suggestions, and I hope Government will accept them.

There are also three other suggestions to make, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister would be pleased to mind these. There is one officer in charge of the Live-Stock Department. I consider that he has no knowledge about veterinary matters. It is proper that there should be a man in charge of the department who would have knowledge on the subject.

The second thing is the Poultry Department. This department should be under a qualified veterinary man and not under a man who has no knowledge of the subject.

The next suggestion is that the Live-Stock Department should be under the Veterinary Department. These are the few suggestions to which, I hope, the Hon'ble Minister would give suitable reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I rise to oppose these motions. The suggestions that have been made by Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar and the last speaker will be examined and, if found to be feasible and practicable, will be accepted. I cannot say more than this off-hand. My honourable friend, Mr. Sarkar, spoke about stud bulls, but there is probably a little misunderstanding so far as the cattle improvement scheme is concerned. It really comes under the head "Agriculture" and not under the head "Veterinary." As there seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding about these things, I cannot do better than place the present policy of Government before the House so far as this department is concerned.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: My friend will hear now. That policy is to accept the entire responsibility for the prevention and cure of contagious cattle diseases and entrust local bodies with the responsibility for the treatment of ordinary cattle diseases and injuries

by the establishment of adequate hospitals and dispensaries for the purpose. This is exactly what was recommended by the Royal Commission on Agriculture over which our present Viceroy, His Excellency Lord Linlithgow, presided. As matters stand at present, however, we have the veterinary staff divided into two parts, viz., the itinerant staff for the prevention and cure of contagious diseases and the stationary staff for the treatment of the ordinary cattle diseases and injuries. But both the stationary and itinerant staff are now under the dual control of Government and the local body concerned, the latter contributing two-thirds of the cost including leave and pension contributions. They are under the technical supervision of the Director, Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, but the administrative control lies with the local bodies concerned. This in no sense makes for good administration either in respect of control of contagious diseases or in respect of the treatment of ordinary sickness or injuries. In particular, the work of control of contagious diseases is seriously hampered under the existing arrangement as at the time of a serious outbreak of a contagious cattle disease at any place, the Director, Civil Veterinary Department, cannot mobilize itinerant staff from the unaffected areas, as the staff is under the administrative control of the local district boards or municipalities who are not concerned with any epidemic outside their jurisdiction. The result is that the Director, Civil Veterinary Department, tries in vain to fight the epidemic with the local itinerant veterinary surgeons and the little reserve that he has at the headquarters. Every year hundreds of agricultural cattle are carried away by contagious diseases like rinderpest, in spite of the best efforts on the part of the available veterinary staff to control the epidemic. To remedy this unsatisfactory position, it has been decided that the entire itinerant veterinary staff should be provincialised and placed under the absolute control of the Director, Civil Veterinary Department, and the staff that are at present employed both on hospital duties as well as itinerant work should also be provincialized and placed entirely on itinerant work. Apart from the question of control, the existing veterinary staff is inadequate, so that even after the entire itinerant and itinerant-cum-stationary staff are provincialised, the staff that we shall have for the work of contagious disease control will fall far short of our requirements. In fact, there is a persistent demand voiced through the members of the legislature for one veterinary officer at every thana. The demand is by no means extravagant if only the needs of the people are considered. Bengal has a cattle population of over three crores. Assuming that one veterinary assistant surgeon can take charge of 10,000 cattle—a figure which is far in excess of modern accepted standards—Bengal would require 3,000 veterinary assistant surgeons which would give very much more than one for each thana. But our resources do not permit anything like one veterinary assistant surgeon for every 10,000 cattle, or even one for each thana. The

standard that this Government followed in the past was one itinerant veterinary assistant surgeon and one stationary veterinary assistant surgeon for each subdivision. We have not been able to work even up to this old and obsolete standard as we have at present 89 itinerant, 15 itinerant-cum-stationary and only 16 purely stationary veterinary assistant surgeons, whereas there are 84 subdivisions in the province. To proceed at once from the present position to the standard of one veterinary assistant surgeon for each thana would require an additional expenditure much beyond the resources of the province. It is, therefore, proposed to restrict ourselves for the present to the standard of two stationary veterinary assistant surgeons for each subdivision.

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 5,90,000 under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that the demand of Rs. 5,90,000 under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost

The motion that the demand of Rs. 5,90,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan was then put and agreed to

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 10th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 10th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present.

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 203 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Recommendation of the Scheduled Castes Education Enquiry Committee.

*162. **Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state what is the recommendation of the Scheduled Castes Education Enquiry Committee, 1938, for the allotment of five lakhs of rupees in Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangement have the Government made so far to spread education among the Scheduled Castes people of the Burdwan Division, specially in the district of Burdwan?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount spent; and

(*ii*) the name of the institutions and students getting help from the Government in the district of Burdwan?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) The recommendations made by the Scheduled Castes Education Committee for the allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs are as follows:—

		Rs.
(1) Scheduled Castes Hostel, Calcutta	...	1,50,000
(2) Scheduled Castes Hostel, Barisal	...	30,000
(3) Scheduled Castes Hostel, Comilla	...	20,000
(4) Stipend to College students	...	80,000
(5) Building grants to high English schools	...	75,000
(6) Building grants to middle English schools	..	75,000
(7) Semi-Famine grant to high English and middle English schools	...	50,000
(8) Miscellaneous	...	20,000
Total	...	5,00,000

(*b*) Sontal education in the Midnapore and Bankura districts costs per annum Rs. 10,367 and Rs. 6,156, respectively. Stipends are granted to Scheduled Castes college students in the Burdwan Division.

(*c*) Rajani Kanta Bauri of the Burdwan district has been awarded a stipend of Rs. 6 per month for one year in the Bankura College.

No institution has as yet received a grant of Rs 5 lakhs.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: (*a*) উত্তরে যা বলা হয়েছে, প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে কি জানাবেন, ঐ সব recommendation accept করা হয়েছে কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: কিছু কিছু করা হয়েছে।

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Is it a fact that the rate of stipend to College students which was recommended by this Committee was not accepted by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware of it, but I can enquire.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: কোনগুলি accept করা হয়েছে এবং কোনগুলি under consideration এ আছে বলা হবে কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: কাগজপত্র না দেখে বলা যাবে না।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that with regard to the proposals for separate hostels for Scheduled Castes students the Calcutta University has proposed that there need not be any separate hostels for the students of Scheduled Castes inasmuch as hostels for caste Hindus are open to Scheduled Castes.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is a fact.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much money has been allotted for the building grant for the district of Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of the fact that the Caste Hindu hostels are thrown open on equal terms to the students of the Scheduled Castes, do the Government consider the desirability of allotting money for the Scheduled Castes by way of stipends and scholarships?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Scheduled Castes wanted a separate hostel. It is not for me to say how to spend the money meant for their education. It is for them to advise and Government will take action accordingly.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government consider it necessary to spend the whole amount of Rs. 5 lakhs in the current year, i.e., 1939-40?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I can give no promise of that kind but as far as is necessary money will be spent.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a bluff.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May be.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: With reference to answer (*a*) (*7*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is meant by the term "Semi-famine grant"?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Scarcity grant.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: That is also not understood

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to (*a*) (*5*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this grant is exclusively meant for the Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is so

Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Are the Government aware that condemned rooms are reserved for the students of the Scheduled Castes in general hostels?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes

Rabi crops in Sadar subdivision of Pabna.

***163. Maulvi AZHAR ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that the prospect of *rabi* crops in most part of the flood-stricken area in the Sadar subdivision of Pabna is gloomy as its growth is very slow for want of rain;

(*ii*) that the weak seedlings are being destroyed by insects;

(*iii*) that expected outturn of *aman* crop in the affected area fell short by 50 per cent. and in some places 75 per cent.; and

(*iv*) that 95 per cent. of the agriculturists have no food crops with them at present?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the Government propose to take to combat the situation and to help all classes of agriculurtists in the rural area till the next harvest in July and August?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of establishing Agricultural Banks in the rural areas by floating 3 per cent. debentures specially in flood affected parts for the present to advance short-term loans to cope with the present situation as well as for facilities of agricultural works in future?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Want of rain and damage by insects adversely affected the *rabi* crops to some extent. But *rabi* crops have been sown more widely this year, and on account of the recent rain, the ultimate outturn is expected to be about 10 annas.

(*iii*) The actual outturn of *aman* crops is about 50 per cent. of the normal outturn.

(*iv*) No. Agriculturists in some of the areas only are likely to be without food crop by *Chaitra* next.

(*b*) Distribution of agricultural loans for *aus* seeds is under contemplation. Test relief works have been opened in selected centres. Test relief by a scheme of paddy-husking is in operation in some places to afford relief to the female folk. About two lakhs of rupees have already been distributed as agricultural loans in the Sadar subdivision. Adequate measures will be taken to increase the scope of test relief works according to the necessities of the situation in order to help the needy agriculturists to earn a living. If the necessity arises, gratuitous relief will be given again.

(*c*) Government have no proposal for the immediate establishment of such Agricultural Banks in the manner suggested, but are examining the problem of rural credit in all its aspects.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি জানেন যে সমস্ত সিরাজগঞ্জ মহকুমার অধিকাংশ স্থানের এবং সদর মহকুমার মধ্যে সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা বহুত আমের আউস এবং আমন flood এর দরুণ সম্পূর্ণভাবে নষ্ট হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is not a fact.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in some parts of the Sadar subdivision of Pabna there were no crops either *aman* or *aus*?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Certainly some portions of the subdivision were very badly affected, but 50 per cent. is the average yield, that is our information.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি জানেন যে আনুমানিক শতকরা পঞ্চাশ ভাগ আমন-শস্য যে কৃষকের ঘরে উঠেছে, এটা সম্পূর্ণ অসত্য?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: That is not the information of Government.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: এই যে শতকরা ৫০ ভাগ আমন ধান পাওয়া গেছে বোলে যে report, এ report কার কাছ থেকে পেয়েছেন, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে জানাবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The Collector.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government are going to take to relieve the agriculturists who will have no food by Chaitra next?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Gratuitous relief.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: With reference to answer (*b*), viz., distribution of agricultural loans for *aus* seeds is under contemplation, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the seeds will be supplied?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I think, within a few days.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: When does Government contemplate to distribute the seeds?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Immediately.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁর প্রত্যুত্তরে বোলেছেন যে চৈত্র মাসাদ চাষীদের অনটন হওয়ার আশঙ্কা করা যাচ্ছে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি স্বীকার কোরবেন যে তাঁর এই অনুমানের উপর যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I do not propose to answer this question.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state——

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: On a point of order, Sir.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমার বিশ্বাস সভাপতি মহাশয়ের কাছে আমরা সদস্যেরা সহানুভূতির আশা কোরতে পারি। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়রা যদি ক্রোধ বশতঃ বা খেয়াল বশতঃ কোন প্রশ্নের উত্তর না দিতে ইচ্ছা করেন, তা বলবার যথেষ্ট ভদ্রতাসূচক উপায় আছে। কিন্তু এটা দিতে ইচ্ছা করি না এরকম অধিকার মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের নাই বোলেই আমি বিশ্বাস করি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The only thing that the Hon'ble Minister has said is, "I do not propose to answer this question". How does it hurt you?

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, the point of order is this, that when a supplementary question is put, unless the Chair disallows that, the Minister is bound to answer. He can say, I want notice, but he cannot decide not to answer a question when it has been allowed by the Speaker

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is nothing to compel a Minister to answer a question You may draw your own conclusion from what he has said.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, there is a rule that a Minister must reply to all questions put to him on matters relating to public responsibility unless he makes a statement that it is against public interest to reply to them It is only on this ground that he can refuse to answer a question; but it is not his sweet will, it is not his zemindari; he is merely a public servant.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The honourable member certainly has the right to put questions for eliciting information. But I submit that he has no right to make insinuations. When I replied to the question he had no right to state that I was not giving him the correct information

Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount proposed to be spent for distributing seeds in the district of Pabna?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: There is no fixed amount: it depends on the necessity.

Non-existence of Scheduled Castes' hostel in Mymensingh.

*164. **Mr. MONMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that the Scheduled Castes students of the Mymensingh district have no hostel of their own;

(*ii*) that the necessity of a hostel is keenly felt by them;

(*iii*) that on the 17th August, last, the Scheduled Castes M.L.A., Mymensingh East, submitted a petition to the Director of Public Instruction for starting a hostel there;

(*iv*) that on the 13th November, 1938, an estimate showing the demand of monthly grant of Rs. 150 in the scale of Rs. 50 as house rent per month and Rs. 100 to help the boys in messing, was submitted to District Inspector of Schools, Mymensingh; and

(*v*) that on the 24th November, 1938, a subsequent prayer was made to the Special Officer, Scheduled Castes Education, Bengal, for a lump sum of Rs. 500 for preliminary establishment charges of the hostel in addition to the demand mentioned in (*iv*)?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government contemplate taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) and (*iii*) to (*v*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes, there is necessity for a school hostel.

(*b*) The question of a hostel for Scheduled Castes school boys at Mymensingh is under consideration.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Hindus of Mymensingh are prepared to accommodate as many Scheduled Castes boys in their hostels as may be forthcoming?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the question of erecting a hostel for Scheduled Castes students at Mymensingh will take?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Plans and estimates have been made but are still under the consideration of the Public Works

Department. It is impossible for me to give you a definite time. But I hope steps will be taken by the Special Officer to expedite the establishment of the hostel.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of consulting the local school authorities as to the possibility of opening the ordinary Hindu hostels to Scheduled Castes boys without any restriction?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am prepared to make that enquiry.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে জানাবেন কি Scheduled castes' hostel বোলতে আমরা কি বুঝবো? সেটার মানে কি free boarding and lodging না শুধু একটা ঘরে টাকা দিয়ে থাকতে হবে?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Hostel বোল্লে যা বোঝায় তাই হবে।

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is under the contemplation of the Government to start a Scheduled Castes hostel in each district?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I submit the question does not arise, for the main question concerns Mymensingh only.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it a fact that in spite of the necessity of a hostel in the district of Mymensingh, provision has not been made because the members of the Scheduled Castes representing the district of Mymensingh have joined the Opposition?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is absolutely false. We are not so mean. We are not like the Opposition.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the Presidency College hostels, Calcutta, Scheduled Castes students are allowed to live only in the ground floor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware of it. Besides, I submit this question does not arise out of the original question.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে জানাবেন কি ময়মনসিংহের Scheduled Castes' hostel টা তাড়াতাড়ি করবার জন্য একটা rented house এর ব্যবস্থা সম্বন্ধে তিনি বিবেচনা কোরেছেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: করা হচ্ছে।

Culverts and bridges over the Sara-Serajganj Railway line.

***165. Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the actual number of culverts and bridges over the Sara-Serajganj Railway line;

(*ii*) the length of the line from the Ishurdi station to the Serajganj *ghat* station;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that during the floods of 1931-36 and 1938, the whole area on either side of this railway line suffered; and

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that the local Government as well as public have represented to the Railway authority times without number the necessity of construction of more culverts and bridges?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps do the Government propose taking to remove the grievances of the people before the onslaught of another inundation with the advent of rainy season?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) (*i*) 61, between Ishurdi and Serajganj *ghat*.

(*ii*) 55·92 miles.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) I am informed that a number of additional bridges have been provided by the Railway authorities.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন কি ১৯৩৮ সনের বন্যার পর কটা culvert এবং bridge ঈশ্বরদি থেকে সিরাজগঞ্জ ঘাট পর্যন্ত প্রস্তুত করা হোয়েছে।

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: The honourable member ought to know that it was not possible to construct a culvert within such a short time.

(Cries of "Can't hear, can't hear.")

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: এই অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে কোন culvert বা bridge তৈরী করা সম্ভব হোতে পারে না।

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will please reply in English.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I thought that the honourable member did not understand English. That is why I replied in Bengali. As I have said already, it has not been possible to construct a culvert between the last floods and the time when this question was given notice of.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir.

মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বাংলায় উত্তর দিচ্ছেন, আবার ইংরেজিতেও দিচ্ছেন। কিন্তু বাংলায় উত্তর দেওয়া এঁদের রীতি বিরুদ্ধ।

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমার প্রশ্নের ৪র্থ. নম্বর উত্তরে জানিয়েছেন যে, রেল কর্তৃপক্ষ নাকি কতকগুলি bridge আর culvert provide করেছেন, কতদিনের মধ্যে হবে—সে সম্বন্ধে কি কিছু আভাস দিতে পারেন?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: These additional bridges, mentioned in the reply, are bridges which were constructed after the line was opened.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the breaches between the stations Muladuli and Chatmahal caused by the last floods?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am afraid that it is not possible to give an answer to that question off-hand.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the number of additional bridges are included in the number 61?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, as I have already stated, the attention of the railway authorities has been drawn, and it is very difficult to give the number of bridges or culverts, construction of which will be taken up by the Railways.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware as to how many breaches were made during the last floods on account of the current of water?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I want notice, Sir.

Appointments made under Chapman Committee's report.

*166. **Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, in regard to the appointments of clerks, made as a result of Mr. Chapman's report, since the commencement of action on that report—

(*i*) total number of applications received from the Muslims; and

(*ii*) total number of appointments made from—

(*a*) Hindus—

Graduates.

Non-Graduates.

(*b*) Muslims—

Graduates.

Non-Graduates.

(*c*) Scheduled Castes—

Graduates.

Non-Graduates.

(*d*) Other Community—

Graduates.

Non-Graduates?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: A statement is laid on the Library table.

Scheduled Castes employees in office of the Chief Inspector of Boilers, Bengal.

*167. **Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether there is any Scheduled Castes employee serving at present in the ministerial services in the office of the Chief Inspector of Boilers, Bengal?

(*b*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that a vacancy had occurred in the ministerial posts;

(*ii*) that Government directed the appointment of a Scheduled Castes candidate;

(*iii*) that the vacancy was filled up by a relative of the office Superintendent in preference to a Scheduled Castes candidate; and;

(*iv*) that the name of another relative of the office Superintendent has been earmarked for the next vacancy?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take for the appointment of Scheduled Castes candidates in that department?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) No.

(*b*) (*i*) No vacancy has occurred since May, 1935.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Do not arise.

(*iv*) No; moreover, there is no likelihood of any vacancy in the near future.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any temporary vacancy?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Culverts and bridges on the B. A. K. branch embankment of the East Indian Railway.

54. Mr. M. FARHAD RAZA CHOWHDURY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the B. A. K. branch embankment of the East Indian Railway, specially between Azimganj station and Tildanga station in the district of Murshidabad, has not adequate openings and outlets and wide culverts and bridges in the said railway embankment to let off flood water; and

(*ii*) that during the heavy flood in the month of August last the water level on the eastern side of the said railway embankment rose three cubits higher up than that of the western side and remained stationary for some days?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the fact that the people living on the eastern side are subject to heavy floods?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, is being taken by the Government to ameliorate the prevailing condition?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of approaching the Railway authorities concerned to increase the openings and outlets and to widen the existing culverts and bridges in those places referred to in (*a*)?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) This question cannot be answered until a cafeful investigation has been made by experts. I propose to ask the Railway administration to co-operate in such an investigation.

(*ii*) The water level at some places on the eastern side was 2 feet higher than on the other side for a few days.

(*b*) This has been brought to my notice.

(*c*) and (*d*) As I have stated in my reply to part (*a*) (*i*) I propose to have the question investigated by experts.

Sixty per cent. of appointments for Muslims in the district office of Mymensingh.

55. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (Mymensingh): (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state when do the Government propose to give effect to the resolution (reserving 60 per cent. of appointments for the Muslims) which was carried in the Assembly during the last session?

(*b*) What is the total number of Muslim and non-Muslim clerks appointed during the year 1938 in the following heads in the district office of Mymensingh:—

(1) temporary clerks appointed as probationers; and

(2) dismissed clerks reinstated?

(*c*) How do the Government propose to fill up the vacancies in the upper grade with special pay (Head Clerk, Magistracy and Accountant) in the district office of Mymensingh which will fall vacant during the year 1939?

(*d*) Do the Government propose to fill up these two posts when vacant by Muslims, as existing two are Hindus out of the present total number of four such posts?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) The matter is at present under consideration of the Committee appointed by Government according to the announcement made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in the House in the Monsoon session.

(*b*) (1) Muslim ... 3

Non-Muslim including 1 Scheduled Castes 4

(2) Muslim ... Nil

Non-Muslim ... 2 (reinstated on appeal).

(*c*) Appointments to these posts will be made by the District Officer in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV, Boards Miscellaneous Rules.

(*d*) The cases of deserving Muslim clerks will be considered along with others. It is not a fact that the existing two are Hindus. The Accountant is a Muhammadan.

Distribution of agricultural loans and gratuitous relief in consultation with local M.L.C.'s and M.L.A.'s.

56. Mr. MD. BARAT ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it was resolved in the Flood Conference held at Jalpaiguri under his Presidentship, that in distribution of agricultural loans and gratuitous relief to the flood-affected agriculturists the local M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s should be consulted by the Charge Superintendent?

(*b*) Did the Hon'ble Minister receive a petition presented to him against Babu Naresh Chandra Chakrabarty, the then Charge Superintendent of Ullapara for distributing loans without consulting the local M.L.A.'s?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, was an enquiry made into the matter?

(*d*) If so, with what result?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) No. The decision of the Conference was that relief committees shall be formed to assist the district staff (*a*) in the collection of information of persons eligible for relief of various kinds, (*b*) in bringing to notice all deserving cases and (*c*) in the distribution of relief and that the local members of the Legislative Assembly and the members of the Legislative Council should be invited to accept membership of this relief committee.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if local committees were appointed in all districts and subdivisions and whether members of the Legislature were invited to serve on them?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I believe so.

Promotion of Lower Division clerks to Lower Division selection grade posts during temporary leave vacancies.

57. Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether a Lower Division assistant who has passed at least one year on the maximum of the time-scale in the Bengal Secretariat is promoted to officiate in a Lower Division selection grade post during a temporary leave vacancy?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of any orders on the subject?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The selection grade does not represent a separate post with special duties and responsibilities but is merely an extension of the ordinary time-scale, entrance to which is reserved for assistants of special merit who have passed at least one year on the maximum of the time-scale. The question of officiating appointments in the selection grade does not therefore arise.

(*c*) A copy of paragraph 7 of Government Resolution No. 13794F., dated the 11th November, 1922, is placed on the Library table.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: With reference to question (*a*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that one assistant of the now defunct Council Department was allowed to officiate in a leave vacancy in the lower division selection grade in the Secretariat and that his officiating period was allowed to be counted towards increment by the Accountant-General, Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I am not aware of it.

Mr. MD. MOHSIN ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the matter was referred to the Accountant-General, Bengal, and that no action was taken on it?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I am not aware of it.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

7—Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 28,96,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue".

Sir, it was more than once my privilege to state on the floor of this House that the land revenue budget of a province, mostly permanently-settled, does not lend itself to sensational changes. In fact, the fixed collections in our budget, which represent the collections from permanently-settled areas, are being looked upon both by Government and by the public as something unchangeable. But, unfortunately, we are now faced with a situation when our fixed collections are no longer stable. There has been a heavy fall in our land revenue receipts. The budget estimate was Rs. 3,50,00,000 and the revised estimate for the current year is Rs. 3,19,00,000. So, there is a fall of Rs. 31,71,000. Of this nearly 7 lakhs are out of the receipts from the permanently-settled areas, and 19½ lakhs out of the receipts from the khas mahals. Besides this, Sir, there is a heavy fall in our Court of Wards collections.

The fall in our collections from the khas mahals is also rather heavy. The fall is over 20 per cent. If we could obtain the figures of all collections by private landlords, we could realise what amount of pressure is being borne by the zemindars, i.e., how much land revenue demand they are meeting out of their pockets. I think it will be a mistake to try to explain away this heavy deterioration in our land revenue collections only by mentioning that 15 districts in the province were affected by serious floods. I think there were other factors besides the floods which have contributed directly or indirectly to the deterioration in our land revenue collections. I venture to think that there is a definite no-rent mentality in the province, and this no-rent mentality is visible practically in every district.

There is a serious propaganda going on by the ex-detenus, the Congress workers, the local agitators and the Krishak Samitis against

Government and against landlords. Definite attempts are being made to mislead the agriculturists. Sir, I would appeal to the honourable members, irrespective of their party allegiance, to counteract this mentality. If this menace is not seriously counteracted, I venture to think that the whole revenue system of the Province may collapse before long, and I sound a serious note of warning. The honourable members of the Legislature, I assume, have great influence with the tenantry of Bengal and they have, no doubt, the good of the tenantry at heart. They are the real friends of the tenantry. They ought to counteract the misleading propaganda that is being carried on by the pseudo-friends of the agriculturists, and I make an appeal to them with all the emphasis that I command. Even the tenancy legislation that was undertaken by Government in the interests of the agriculturists by sacrificing very valuable rights of the landlords is being misinterpreted in certain quarters and this legislation has given great incentive to agitation for unreasonable demands by leaders who have assumed responsibility of doing good to the tenants, but who, I make bold to submit, have not the real good of the tenantry at heart. Sir, the areas of the Province not affected by floods, such as Jalpaiguri and parts of Chittagong, show very heavy fall in our land revenue collections. How can we explain this, but by referring to the no-rent mentality. The Land Revenue Commission has started its work since November last. It has framed questionnaire covering a very wide range of subjects. The Commission has already examined a large number of witnesses, mostly officials. The Commission has visited Madras and also some of the districts there, both permanently-settled and temporarily-settled. They discussed the agrarian problems with the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister of the Madras Presidency, the Members of the Board of Revenue of that Province and some other leading officials and non-officials who are interested in the revenue administration of Madras. The Commission will continue to take evidence up to the end of the current month. Then there will be a recess, and some of the members including the President perhaps will go to England. The Commission will re-assemble in the end of October or early November when the Commission proposes to examine further witnesses, visit some other Provinces in India to study the land revenue system, the land revenue administration, the condition of the tenantry in those Provinces and then to prepare its report. We may reasonably expect that the recommendations of the Commission will be in our hands by this time next year.

There is another problem to which I would like to make a reference, namely, the survey and settlement operations. In deference to the wishes of some of the members of this House, specially belonging to the Coalition Party, it was decided not to proceed with the revisional settlement operation in Midnapore last year. Since then Government have not taken any steps to carry on the revisional settlement operation

in other districts. The honourable members are aware that very large sums of public money, several crores, were spent during the last 35 years in preparing the record-of-rights. They are very valuable public documents. Now, Sir, it has been found, and that opinion is also supported by the Honourable High Court, that the record-of-rights becomes out of date through transfer, subdivision of holdings, composition of holdings, succession and due to other causes in course of 21 to 22 years. An up-to-date record-of-rights is absolutely necessary for a progressive province. It is also necessary for Government to undertake such schemes as debt conciliation, such schemes as organisation of rural credit and such schemes as introduction of more profitable crops in different areas of the province; and all these schemes will be greatly handicapped in the absence of an up-to-date record-of-rights. It is therefore absolutely necessary that the province should have its record-of-rights up-to-date, and that presupposes revisional survey and settlement operation. This is a problem to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. Government at the present moment are seriously considering the question as to how to devise a cheaper method of revisional settlement operation. And I hope to place before this House at an early date a scheme which will entail much smaller cost than the original survey and settlement operation.

The Revenue Department are always faced with serious agrarian problems. We have to counteract the no-rent mentality on the one hand and the propensity of the lowly-paid agents of the landlords for realising illegal *abwabs* from the tenantry on the other. The Revenue Department have to devise ways and means for speedy realisation and regular realisation of rent and revenue in khas mahals without having recourse to the recognised method of speedy realisation of rent, namely, the certificate procedure.

In deference to the wishes of the honourable members of this House the certificate procedure has been kept suspended for two years in Government and Court of Wards estates. In discharging their very difficult and not always very pleasant duties the Department was given a great guidance and encouragement by the late Governor Lord Brabourne of blessed memory. It was the lead, the advice, and the encouragement that this Department received from His Excellency that enabled it to discharge its duties with courage and fortitude. I take this opportunity of publicly paying my debt of gratitude to the memory of Lord Brabourne, our revered Chief. With these few words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the desirability of Government buying up all interest in land above that of the actual cultivator.

The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department has struck a very soft note with a mixture of despair in urging this demand. The Hon'ble Minister has found fault with the fact that there is a no-rent mentality in the villages and he has invited the co-operation of all the members of this House in this matter. In answer to my friend's invitation, may I tell him that if anybody is responsible for the development of this destructive mentality it is the Government themselves. If my friends in the Cabinet would not take any offence, I would venture to tell them straight in the face that after giving a fair trial for more than two years, the masses have come to realise that while they were asking for bread, the Ministry had nothing but communal stones to give.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: No, No.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I am very glad to hear my friend saying "no". May I tell my friend and the members of the Cabinet that it is encouraging and it is the redeeming feature of Bengal to-day that while we politicians at the top are aligning ourselves into watertight compartments, the dumb millions outside are slowly coming into a perspective of their own and they are trying to combine across communal differences, so that they might assert with strength and confidence their demand for a total overhaul of the existing land revenue system. Sir, it is professed and pleaded that land is the ultimate main-stay for the millions and it is also recognised that the solution of the present degrading misery depends to a large extent upon a scientific and rational land system as its base and this fundamental home truth has been forced even upon this Government which was trying to play hide and seek in this as in many other matters, and the starting of a Revenue Enquiry Commission is only one of the instances of hide and seek But, Sir, it is our duty as members of the Legislature and as chosen representatives of the dumb millions outside to clearly indicate in what line they think and we think.

If there is one thing more certain than another it is this: that the permanent settlement must go. This monstrous permanent settlement has been in the dock for a long time, the jurors of public opinion have clearly given their unanimous verdict against the continuance of this settlement and it is now for the political judges of the Floud Commission to follow up that verdict by passing a sentence of death upon this monstrous settlement, and if that is not done I will ask the Government to beware of the terrible repercussion that will follow fraught with tremendous consequences which one would shudder to think. I hope my friend the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister in charge anticipates the events that are coming. Historical reasons and political exigencies might be used for explaining how the permanent settlement came into

being. But they are neither any argument nor any justification for the continuance of a system which has not only failed to protect the millions but has proved to be a veritable ruin for them.

Sir, we must have the courage to bury the dead. Let us not be guided and misguided by soft sympathies and kind considerations. Sir, the shoe which is worn out ought to be discarded and dropped, and any attempt to keep the shoe will only keep alive the nails which will prick the body-politics to the point of ulceration. The time has come for us to set ourselves to the task of evolving a new system of land tenure in which will be introduced a direct contact between the Government and their machinery and the peasants. The present arrangement is an obsolete one. Under this, Government are sitting at the remote top and the actual cultivator is standing at the farthest bottom separated by an unmeaning hierarchy of immobile interest and this grand staircase must be demolished, so that the top and the bottom might meet on the land and on a common platform. Sir, the present system is a satanic chain of personal obligations. Government expect and get revenue from the zemindars; Government are not required to go to the land for inspection or for any interest. Similarly the zemindar in his turn realises the rent from *patnidar* and the *patnidar* realises rent from the *dar patnidar* and nobody has got to worry about the land itself. So that the only task of maintaining and improving the land is left to the cultivator who is the weakest link in the chain. Surely the cultivator had neither in the past nor in future any prospect of controlling his produce. The result is that this vast reservoir of national energy, namely, the land is really frittered away on account of negligence. This absurdity must be stopped. The agency or sub-agency must be brushed aside so that ultimately nothing should remain to intervene between the Government and the tiller of the soil itself. The blessings of this improved method are manifold and obvious. By a thorough nationalisation of land Government will be getting an extra annual income of Rs. 12 crores and with this big amount every year the nation-building departments in the line of primary education, in the line of sanitation, in the line of rural uplift, many things which are decaying into pious platitudes, will get a wonderful start. On the other hand the weary cultivator would come out of the slough of despondency, because he will under the reformed system like Prometheus Unbound breathe fresh air and even plough more firmly and with greater confidence, because he will have this realisation and conviction that he is now ploughing not for the landlords, not for the vested interests, not for the capitalists and other exploiters, but he is producing golden crops for himself and for the State. He will consider himself as one of the principal functionaries of the great commune and this feeling will introduce all the changes which are so necessary for health, prosperity and rejuvination. Sir, this will also induce

thousands of educated middle-class young men who are now rotting in the streets of the cities for want of employment to go back to villages and take to farming and intelligent cultivation on the lines of the Russian tenantry of which we hear and read so much. The result will be that people who are now breaking their heads against stone-walls will find better avenues of employment and career in the village areas. Sir, there will also be improved facilities for small agricultural industries in the village areas and there will also be avenues of employment and career in the marketing of those products in which thousands of young men will be absorbed. Sir, I cannot but mention also in passing the duty of the State to start a comprehensive scheme of insurance so that the produce of the land is guarded against the onslaught of nature, namely, scarcity and flood. Sir, it passes my comprehension why if it is possible for perishable human lives to be the subject matter of insurance scheme, the land which can never perish but is ever neglected cannot be made the subject of an equally effective and efficacious insurance scheme. These schemes, if put into operation, will supply healthy avenues of employment to our thousands and thousands of young men. And, Sir, the expanded Revenue Department will improve the tone of the Union Boards which form the smallest units in the lowest rung of the entire administration and in the matter of collection of taxes—I say tax advisedly, because I do not believe in the crops of the land being assessable either to rent or to revenue because if there is no crop there is no question of any liability. So the State will have to take the responsibility of letting even any unit of land remain without cultivation and thousands of young men will be entrusted with the work of making periodic surveys for the purpose of bringing each unit of land for productive cultivation. And this will also mean good employment for our young men. In this way, Sir, the entire village area which is now absolutely dark and unhealthy might be brightened up by a ten-year planned work. Sir, we hear that there is some expropriation in the matter. I say there is not, because the unproductive intermediaries who will apparently lose will certainly more than gain, because they will also have a proper place in the improved atmosphere and in a more prosperous society. Sir, what they lose is more than compensated by the guaranteed employment because in this improved state of things that I visualise so humbly, my considered opinion is that there will be few unemployment and fewer cases of starvation. Sir, the vested interests will crumble and they will give place to a new order of things in which everybody will smile and not like the present state of things in which there are several who laugh and others who cry. Sir, the laugh will be distributed and there will be occasions for smile in every face. Sir, I do not like to prolong my discussion by any academic arguments, but I would make an appeal to my friends over there, I mean the members of the Coalition Party. Sir, they are the Government and I want

them to realise the wonderful possibility of our improved land system and I want to make it clear to them that the responsibility for neglecting the land is theirs, because they cannot expect the Opposition to work out any schemes. We are here only to give our ideas by obstruction, by suggestions and by appeals and it is only for them to carry them out. Sir, I appeal to them that they must give a clear mandate to the Floud Commission, a clear direction of what their activities ought to be. Sir, the Floud Commission is composed of persons who do not give me very much hopes. I hear of experts and scholars and all that, but there are few persons who really understand the problems of the tenants. We do not want scholars and we do not want experts. We want men who are acquainted with the humble spheres of agricultural life, but we have not a single individual there who can do justice to our cause. Sir, their questionnaire strikes me as one which simply wants to get rid of the problem but not to tackle it in all seriousness. So, Sir, I appeal to the members of the Coalition Party that they must make it clear to the Floud Commission to-day on the floor of this House that whatever may be our differences in political and communal spheres, whatever may be our party differences, whatever may be our individual differences, we are at least united in our demand and determination to ring out the old and ring in the new.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I propose to do after this is to take one motion of the Proja Party and one motion of the Nationalist Group to be moved and thereafter allow the debate to be proceeded with, and as soon as these have been finished we will take up the other motions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I know how long we propose to sit to-day?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us see. We have got "Famine Relief" to take up. It may be that we will have to sit late

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We want to sit till 9 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I propose to continue the discussion on "Land Revenue" till 7-30 p.m.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We suggest that we continue the discussion till 8-30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the House wants to sit till then the others will have to be consulted.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not for the House. It is for the Opposition to suggest.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not for you but for the Leader of the Opposition and the Whip.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, there is one motion standing in my name. Will you allow me to speak on that motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will come to that later. I understand that the Proja Party is going to move the motion of Mr. Abdul Jabbar Palwan. Mr. Waliur Rahman.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the application of Garnishee procedure for realisation of rents due to zemindars.

It was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister last year that the Garnishee system of certificate procedure was going on in Jessore vigorously much to the advantage of the zemindars of Narail and even during the flood time this system was going on in Narail though there was a failure of crops. Besides this, some estates were attached under section 99 of the Cess Act in the district of Jessore. Though it was declared on behalf of the Government that the certificate procedure would be put an end to and the people would be relieved from the operations of the certificate procedure, it has been going on. During the flood time in the Narail subdivision, I had to run to the Certificate Officer to get time to pay off the dues under the certificate procedure. Under this system and the system of attachment under section 99 of the Cess Act though there was a declaration on behalf of Government that the certificate procedure has been put a stop to, the zemindars have been given advantage in an indirect way to resort to this procedure. When zemindars are being given the advantage of the Garnishee system and attachment under Cess Act it is nothing but eye-wash and deception on the part of the Government to say that it has put a stop to the certificate procedure. So every one can understand, and we also understand, that this Government have not got the desire or the intention to give any sort of relief to the agriculturists by stopping even this certificate procedure—to the poor people who are suffering from starvation for failure of crops due to the last floods.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the settlement of Sunderban estates and giving further relief to the holders of 40 years' lease.

Sir, three districts are chiefly concerned in the subject I am referring to in this motion, viz., Barisal, Khulna and the 24-Parganas. The majority of my honourable colleagues here know more or less about the Sunderban land. This tract extending over the 3 districts just mentioned by me would be several thousand square miles in area and was declared khas land by Government in 1825 and 5 years later Government thought of reclaiming the land and began to lease out the dense forest lands for a term of 99 years with a stipulation for renewal every 30 years. In 1879, the policy was changed and lease was granted for 40 years with the same stipulation for renewal every 30 years. Reclamation of Sunderban forest land, as you can well imagine, was a very hazardous task and crores of rupees had been spent by the lease-holders to reclaim the land and you would be surprised to hear that the original holder, in very few cases, could finish the reclamation work as the process was so tedious, dangerous and expensive. Ordinarily the tract is 3 to 4 feet under the high water level in the area and by constructing huge embankments you have to keep the salt water out. It requires a lot of money, lot of vigilance, lot of energy to keep these embankments fit which are subject to frequent breaches.

Sir, I am fortunate to say that the Hon'ble Minister in charge is fully aware of these difficulties and he also knows that the area periodically suffers from drought and he knows also the magnitude of risk and danger in maintaining the Sunderban estates.

Leases are now being renewed and Government have been pleased to offer somewhat favourable terms to the holders of 99 years' leases. Excepting this term of years, there is practically no difference between 99 and 40 years' leases. I therefore request Government to deal sympathetically and offer to the holders of 40 years' leases at least the same terms and conditions as in 99 years' leases. This requires very careful, sympathetic consideration in view of very many difficulties involved—some of which I have mentioned and I appeal once more to the Hon'ble Minister to consider the question sympathetically and give the relief asked for in the representation made by the Sunderban Landholders' Association in this behalf.

Sir, in conclusion, I would make one more observation. As regards the general policy of our land-revenue system, I would ask the House to remember that ours is an agricultural country, and that land revenue is the foundation on which even the other sources of revenue are based. Stamps, court-fees, excise and all other sources depend upon stable and steady land revenue. The prosperity and credit of the province depends upon its stable land-revenue system. I would, therefore, urge upon Government and this House to consider carefully before disturbing a system on which our economic life has been based for over a century. All activities to create a gulf between the tenants and the landlords are positively dangerous.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of Government in not taking steps to relieve the distress of the famine-stricken people by remission of the arrears of rent, especially in areas where crops are destroyed by flood and water-hyacinth.

Sir, the flood is not an exceptional thing in this unhappy province of Bengal. It has become an annual occurrence. In my district, in certain areas in the Sadar subdivision, there has been an annual breach of the Gumti embankment and on account of that there has been annual flood causing destruction of crops over a large tract of land. Some portion of the Gumti embankment is not maintained either by the Government or the Tripura Raj, which the latter used to maintain before 1919 when Government took the responsibility of maintaining the embankment. In some parts of the district of Tippera, in the Brahmanbaria subdivision, there have been annual floods causing destruction of crops over a large tract of land, the area affected being more than 600 *drones* and the annual estimated loss of crop will not be less than Rs. 2 lakhs. In the district of Birbhum, in Langalkot *bil* about 30,000 *bighas* of land is lying fallow on account of annual flood. In the district of Faridpur, in the Madaripur *bil* area, crops are being destroyed annually and so also is the case in some parts of the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Bakarganj. This is also the case in some parts of West Bengal districts. The tenants in those areas have been paying rents even though their crops were destroyed for about 30 years. Rent is certainly a share of the produce; so, when crops are destroyed by floods the zemindar or the Government should not receive any rent from the tenant. As a matter of fact this year it is admitted that in 15 districts there have been floods causing destruction over large tracts of land.

In the district of Murshidabad in answer to a question of my friend Maulvi Abdul Bari it was admitted that 90 per cent. of the crops had been destroyed. In the district of Jessore it has been admitted that about 60 per cent. of the crops has been destroyed. In some portions of the Gumti area it has been admitted by Government that the estimated loss of crops is Rs. 80,000, but the relief that has been allowed is only Rs. 1,000. I submit, Sir, that the relief granted by Government to the flood-stricken people by way of agricultural loans and gratuitous relief is quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the situation. In places where the crops are destroyed by floods and water-hyacinth the tenants ought to be exempted from payment of rent to the zemindars.

Then, Sir, criticism has been levelled by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue to the effect that an agitation has been carried on by

the Congress and the Krisak Proja Party for starting a no-rent campaign, but I submit, Sir, that this charge of Government is quite groundless. As a matter of fact, tenants are still paying rent though they are not getting enough crops for the last 25 or 30 years, and Government have not acceded to the demand of the tenants exempting them from payment of rent. It is regrettable, Sir, that Government should unnecessarily bring this charge against members of the Congress Party and the Krishak Proja Party that they are carrying on an agitation. Government do not know the real state of affairs, and, in spite of the fact that the situation is indeed grave, Government are minimising the enormity of the situation. In my own district of Tippera, Sir, I know as a matter of fact that the District Magistrate is minimising the gravity of the situation. There is of course nothing strange about it. The Divisional Commissioner receives report from the District Magistrate, who receives the report from the Subdivisional Officer, who in turn receives report from the chawkidar. And it is well known that Government always call for reports from the Divisional Commissioner, which report, as I have just now said, is nothing but that of the chawkidar. It is an admitted fact that in the 15 districts, which were affected by floods last year, there was an almost total failure of crops, but Government did nothing to alleviate the distress of the peasantry. As I have pointed out already, the agricultural loans and gratuitous relief granted by Government proved to be quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the situation. For this reason, Sir, my demand is that Government should accede at least to this moderate demand that there should be a remission of rent in flood-affected areas. In thanas Narsingnagar and Sarail in the Brahmanbaria subdivision of my district I have personal knowledge that there has been failure of crops for the last 20 years. Further, since the year 1915, when the German War was on, the water-hyacinth has been playing considerable havoc in those areas, which accounted for a total failure of crops in those places in some years. This water-hyacinth is so much dreaded that it is called *German Pana*. The people of the locality assembled in a meeting formed an association and after discussion submitted a petition to Government through the District Magistrate praying for the remission of rent for 3 years. But Government did not accede to that prayer. We know that Government are so hard-hearted that they would never accede to the legitimate prayers of the poor cultivators, and to cover their sins of omission and commission they are always ready to charge the Congress and the Krishak Proja Parties with having started a no-rent campaign and having created a no-rent mentality. Sir, I take the full responsibility for my statement that in that locality there has been a persistent failure of crops for the last 20 years or so. If Government be pleased to make an inquiry into this matter, they will find out the truth. If, however, they do not make any inquiry, that will prove conclusively

the truth of my statement, i.e., my statement as regards the failure of crops in that locality. At the present moment I have not got the petition before me in which they asked for a remission of rent for 3 years. But I might tell the House that I was present at the meeting and know full well what happened at that meeting. The District Magistrate and the Divisional Commissioner went to the locality. The Commissioner was, however, at first inclined to submit a favourable report to Government, but the District Magistrate intervened and persuaded him not to do so. I may add here, Sir, that our District Magistrate is very unsympathetic, and it is because of his unsympathetic attitude that the people have had to undergo so much suffering. The people's prayer for erecting a *bund* for the protection of their crops from the water-hyacinth menace was rejected, with the result that Government are of the opinion that there was nothing wrong with our district.

Mr. SYED HASAN ALI CHOWDHURY: On a point of information, Sir. I should be grateful if you could tell us how many minutes are you allowing to the various speakers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ten minutes to those who move a motion and initiate the discussion, and four minutes to those who speak on it. I have allowed ten minutes to Mr. Datta.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, my submission is this that Government will be pleased to accede to the demand of the people for a remission of rent, and if they so accede, the people will understand that the Government is a Government of the people and for the people. But I know, Sir, that Government will never, never do that——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that motion No. 7 is not going to be moved.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: No, Sir, it will not be moved.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 10 also is not going to be moved.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is it in order, Sir, that the Chair should rearrange the order in which the various motions should be moved? One should have thought that the motions will be called out and moved in the order in which they appear in the agenda, and we claim that this change cannot be done.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to be dictated by you.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of information, Sir. May I know how the order of business is prepared by your office ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not bound to disclose that. Will you please sit down ? You are not the Speaker here !

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We want to know that because we have our own ideas as to how the agenda should be prepared. May I know if you would allow us an opportunity of intimating to you the order in which the members of our Party would like to speak ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am always prepared to consider that, if the Opposition would give me at least 48 hours' notice.

I understand that motions Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14 will not be moved

Mr. Palwan will now please move his motion

Mr. MD. ABDUL JABBAR PALWAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 28,96,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about bringing a Bill at the present or next session of the Assembly for the reduction by 50 per cent. of arrear rent and rent decrees passed against tenants of Bengal

বাংলার চাষী, বাংলার কৃষকের আজ যে কি দুর্দ্দশা এ সভার অনেকেই তা বোধ করি জানেন। কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখ এবং পরিতাপের বিষয় যে, একদল প্রতিনিধি ভোট যুদ্ধের পর থেকেই একথা একেবারে ভুলে গেছেন। অনেকেই প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছিলেন যে, একবার যদি কৃষকরা ভোট দিয়ে তাঁদের উহীল করিয়ে দিতে পারে—তবে তাঁরা তাদের সমস্ত দুঃখ কষ্টের লাঘব করে দেবেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় —একথা আজ কারো স্মরণ নাই। আজ প্রায় দেড় বৎসর পূর্ব্বে, কৃষকদের বাকী খাজনা ও খাজনার ডিক্রি শতকরা পঞ্চাশ মাপ দিবার ব্যবস্থা হোক, এই মর্ম্মে একটা বিল আমি এই এসেম্‌ব্লীতে পেশ করিয়াছি। কিন্তু মন্ত্রীদের ও কোয়ালিশন দলের কারসাজীতে আমাকে আজ পর্য্যন্ত উহা এসেম্‌ব্লীতে আলোচনা করিতে দেওয়া হয় নাই।

প্রজাদের বকেয়া করভার যাতে লাঘব হয় সেই দিকে মন্ত্রীদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ, attention draw করবার জন্য আমি এই cut motion টা এনেছি। কিন্তু দুঃখ ও পরিতাপের বিষয় এই যে, মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী গরীব প্রজার দুঃখ দুর্দ্দশা দূর করা সম্বন্ধে একেবারেই উদাসীন। তাঁরা আজ আর প্রজাদের জন্য কিছুই করিতে চান না। এতদিন পর্য্যন্তও আমার বিশ্বাস ছিলো যে তাঁরা কিছু না কিছু ভালো কাজ প্রজাদের জন্য অবশ্যই কোরবেন। কিন্তু আজ, যখন দেখ্‌তে পাচ্ছি যে, তাঁরা কিছুই কোরবেন না, কারণ জমিদারে পরিপূর্ণ এই কেবিনেট, কোন কিছু প্রজার জন্য হবার আশা সুদূরপরাহত, তখন আমি কোয়ালিশনদলের সংসর্গ ত্যাগ কোরে কৃষক প্রজা পার্টিতে যোগদান কোরলাম। যাঁরা না কি আজ প্রজার সঙ্গে বিশ্বাসঘাতকতা কোরে স্বীয় স্বার্থসাধন কোরতে ব্যস্ত তাদের শাস্তি পাওয়ার বড় বিলম্ব নাই। যাহোক তবু আমি আজ নিবেদন কোরছি এই Assembly,র ভিতর যে সকল মেম্বর আছেন, এবং কোয়ালিশন দলের যে সকল বন্ধুদের ভিতর প্রজার জন্য দরদ আছে, তাঁরা ভেবে আমার এই motion এ ভোট দিয়ে প্রজাদের demand কে সাফল্য মণ্ডিত করেন। মন্ত্রীরা যদি একথা স্বীকার কোরতেন যে, এ

Session এ নয় আগামী Session এ তাঁরা আমার বিল্টী Assembly তে আনয়ন কোরবেন, তাহলেও আমার তাঁদের উপর অবিশ্বাসের কারণ ঘটতো না। কিন্তু তাঁরা কোন প্রতিশ্রুতিই দিতে রাজী নন। আমার কোয়ালিশন বন্ধুরা কংগ্রেসের লোকদের বিরুদ্ধে নানা কথা বলেন, সেই কংগ্রেস দল বেহারে জমিদারদের প্রাপ্য বকেয়া খাজনা ও ডিক্রির টাকা অর্দ্ধেক মাপ কোরেছেন। এবং আবার অর্দ্ধেক খাজনা ৫ বছরের কিস্তিবন্দী কোরে দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু বড়ই পরিতাপের বিষয় বাংলার মন্ত্রীরা খালি লম্বা লম্বা কথা বোলে বাংলার প্রজাদের বিপথগামী কোরছেন। (Cries of "Shame", "Shame") যাঁরা গরীব প্রজাদের নাম নিয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছিলেন, তাঁরা আজ সেই গরীবদের রক্ষার কোন উপায়ই কোরছেন না। বাংলার শত শত কৃষক আজ সর্বস্বহীন হোয়ে আসামের জঙ্গলে চোলে যাচ্ছে, সেদিকে তাঁদের দৃষ্টিপাত নাই। সুতরাং দেখা যাচ্ছে তাঁরা আছেন প্রজাদের ধ্বংস করবার জন্য, তাদের উপকার করবার জন্য নয়। আমরা এই সব মন্ত্রীদের যে বেতন দিচ্ছি—তাদ্বারা প্রজাদের কোনই উপকার হচ্ছে না। আমার শেষ কথা, কোয়ালিশন দলের যাঁরা নাকি প্রজাদের প্রতি সত্যই দরদ রাখেন, তাঁদের বোলছি ওদল ছেড়ে দিয়ে, কৃষক প্রজার দলে যোগদান কোরে বাংলা দেশের অভাবগ্রস্ত প্রজার দাবিকে সাফল্য মণ্ডিত করুন।

At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two motions to be moved after which we will take up general discussion.

Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion in order to draw the attention of the Government to the non-observance of Government Estates Manual Rules for settling Government fisheries with parties other than *bona fide* fishermen and their co-operative societies.

Sir, the recent amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act has benefited to some extent the tenants of the soil but no relief has been given to the tenants of the water, e.g., the fishermen. There has been only one mention of recording fishery rights in course of settlement operations in the Bengal Tenancy Act. There are two Bills on the anvil before both the Houses of the Legislature to confer certain rights on fishermen and remove their principal grievances; but it seems the actual legislation will take place, not now. The fishermen can well say like Jews that "sufferance is the badge of all our tribes". Even to-day fishermen are compelled to sell their catches at a ridiculously low price, say, one anna per seer to a party fixed by the landlord or *ijaradar*. Navigable rivers are free fisheries all the world over and even in Bengal some of the Crown fisheries are still free from taxation on fishermen, but most of the big rivers like the Padma or Meghna are regarded as part and parcel of the *tauzi* on their banks and the landlords extort unreasonably exorbitant rents from the fishermen catching in those big rivers. It is a happy sign that the Government have appointed a Special Officer to enquire into the settlement of Crown fisheries and

it is hoped a Government Bill will soon be placed before the House to relieve the poor fishermen communities, both Hindus and Muhammadans, numbering about 3 millions in Bengal.

There are certain sections in the Bengal Survey and Settlement Manual, 1935, and the Bengal Government's Estates Manual, 1932, enjoining on the Collector for the settlement of the Crown fisheries preferably with fishermen or other co-operative societies. There are about a dozen co-operative societies in Bengal which are languishing day by day for want of settlement of fisheries with them by the Collector. A popular Ministry can never be indifferent to the great hardship of a very useful section of the people, namely, fishermen, to supply a very necessary article of food to the people of Bengal. The callous indifference of the present Government and their officers cannot but be condemned. So, I request the House to support me in my cut motion.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Sir, may I speak in support of the motion moved by my friend?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will call you immediately after all the motions have been moved.

Babu UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 for expenditure under the head "7 - Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of Government in Duars Khasmahal, Jalpaiguri.

I must apologise to the House that I shall have to reiterate some of the arguments that I advanced during the last budget session. But as my appeal did not elicit any reply from the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister at that time, I am constrained to advance them once again. I should also appeal to the members of the Coalition Party,—as the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has time and again said, that they are primarily responsible for the running of this administration,—to consider the case of the poor tenants of the Duars Khasmahal. If they find that the complaints that I am making are just, I hope they will try to influence the Cabinet to do justice to them.

The tenants in the Duars are not Hindus alone. A considerable section of them are Muslims and I shall put forward my arguments not by eloquence but by facts and circumstances and arithmetical figures. The Duars was annexed to the British territory in the year 1864. At that time it brought only Rs. 39,526 to the public coffer. The first settlement was held by Mr. Becket in 1870 and the revenue was raised to Rs. 72,722. But in the year 1915 when Mr. Milligan made a fresh revenue settlement the figure had been raised to Rs. 6,10,495. I may mention in this connection that it was not due simply to letting out

fresh lands to new tenants, but it was due to the enhancement of rent by Mr. Sunders—60·21 per cent. and by Mr. Milligan to the extent of 40 per cent. Most of the tenants were finding it difficult to pay the revenue. But the unkindest cut was inflicted upon them by Mr. B. B. Mukherjee in the year 1935. In order to make my position clear I shall try to give a few instances under which that tax was imposed upon them. In the year 1932-33 according to Government information, only 37·11 per cent. on the total demand and 68·7 on the current demand was realised by the Government under the threat and pressure of the Sunset Law. In the year 1934-35 the current demand was Rs. 6,19,575, but the total arrear amounted to Rs 15,37,387. As many as 12,099 certificate cases were hanging over them. It is at such a time that the enhanced revenue of Mr. Mukherjee was imposed upon the poor tenants and the revenue was raised to the extent of 43·49 per cent. It was answered by the Revenue Minister some time ago that the enhanced revenue was due to a great extent to new settlement of lands. I submit that it is not a fact. From Government statistics I cite that at the time of Mr. Milligan's settlement the total land assessed to revenue was 544,677·88 acres and during the time when Mr. Mukherjee made a settlement the total land assessed to revenue was 493,760·39 acres. So we find that the land assessed was less at the time of Mr. Mukherjee due to the circumstances that many of the *jotes* had been resumed for the purpose of tea cultivation.

I shall again show that the rent at the time of Mr. Milligan was Rs. 3-6, Rs. 3 and Rs. 2-10 for three different classes of *dahala* lands, namely, first class, second class and third class. But at the time when Mr. Mukherjee made a settlement Rs. 4-8 was accepted as the flat rate for the Mainaguri Tahsil. So we can easily realise the hardship under which the tenants were labouring when the rent had been increased to a great extent from Rs. 2-10 to Rs. 4-8. At the time of that settlement the average price of staple food crop, namely, paddy was calculated under the Bengal Tenancy Act in the year 1932 and it was found that Rs. 2-8 is the average price. Subsequently we found that the average price of paddy in the years 1933 and 1934 came down to Re. 1-8 and it is at such a time that the tenants were made to pay this enhanced revenue. The necessary consequence was that many families collapsed under this pressure; lands were sold at a nominal price, so much so that in Mainaguri Tahsil *jote* No. 1616 in Taluk Baragharia, which comprised of 300 acres of paddy land, was auction-sold for a nominal price of Rs. 500. By this time many Marwari gentlemen who did not find the money-lending business profitable any more had adopted the practice of purchasing at auction all *jotes* in the Duars, and I may mention the name of one Marwari who acquired 10,000 acres of land and the most part of which he cultivates by *adhiars* or agricultural serfs.

The Revenue Minister has complained that Congress and other agencies are inducing the tenants not to pay their rents. No doubt that is true to some extent according to my own information, but I can say that so far as the Duars Khasmahals are concerned, recently there has been Union Board elections. The Congress could not capture more than one constituency in the whole Duars.

Sir, I think that by creating this class of landless *adhiars* and by driving them through abject poverty Government themselves are making the Duars fit for communistic ideas. And if a communistic preacher or leader tries to put in his presence he will be successful at such times when the tenants are getting no sympathy from the Government. If I may be permitted to mention, Sir, I may say that the neighbouring Congress provinces have relieved the distress of the poor tenants. In Assam there has been a remission of land revenue and we also hear that in Madras there has been a remission of Rs. 75 lakhs per year in their land revenue. I do not say that because other provinces have remitted, so it must be a case for Bengal to follow suit. All that I want to say is that—do justice to those, to whom justice is overdue and, as I have already submitted, Government must make up their mind. After the inauguration of the provincial autonomy if the Government remains apathetic and static——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of Government for failure to protect tenants from the illegal exactions by zemindars both in permanently and temporarily-settled estates, revenue paying or revenue free.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, ১৭৯৩ সালে যে দিন Permanent Settlement বাংলা দেশে প্রচলিত হয়েছিল সেই দিন থেকেই আমাদের বাংলা দেশের প্রজাবর্গের দুর্ভাগ্যের সূচনা হয়েছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁর নিষ্কর রাজস্ব পেয়ে সন্তুষ্ট হলেন, কিন্তু প্রজাদের খাজনা জমিদারেরা যে ভাবে বাড়াতে লাগলো সেটার প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্ট ভ্রূক্ষেপও কোরলেন না। শুধু permanently settled estate এই নয় temporarily settled estate এ এবং যে সমস্ত estate revenue free সেখানেও জমিদারেরা যদৃচ্ছা খাজনা বাড়াচ্ছেন ও আদায় নিচ্ছেন। আজ আমি এখানে একটী মাত্র জমিদারের কথা বলবো যাঁর এষ্টেট্ হচ্ছে revenue free এবং প্রায় লক্ষ টাকা যাঁর income। তিনি কি কোরে তাঁর প্রজাদের খাজনা বাড়িয়ে চোলেছেন তার একটা মাত্র উদাহরণ দিবো। এই জমিদারের এষ্টেট মজিলপুর প্রভৃতি পরগণায় মোহানায়, বঙ্গোপসাগরের ভিতরে সাগর দ্বীপে। আশাকরি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বিষয়টা প্রনিধান কোরে যথা কর্ত্তব্য কোরবেন। এই জমিদারের এক প্রজার কাছ থেকে খাজনা আদায়ের হার ছিলো ১০০১ সালে ৮০।৯০ আনা, ১০০৪ সালে সেটা বেড়ে গিয়ে দাঁড়ালো, ১০৭৷৷/১০ আনা, ১০০৬ সালে হলো সেটা ১৭১।৵ আনা, ১০০৮ সালে আদায় করা হয়েছে ২০৫৷৷/১৫ এবং ১০০৫ সালে আরো বৃদ্ধি কোরে আদায় করা হয়েছে ২০১।৵১৫ অঙ্ক record of right এ যে

জোতের জমা ধরা আছে ২০৫৷৷৵১৫ পয়সা। জমি কিন্তু কম হয়ে গেছে। সেই এলই জমির উপর জমিদার ধার্য্য কোরেছেন একর প্রতি ৯৲ টাকা কোরে খাজনা। Settlement এর নির্দ্ধারিত সেস্ ছাড়াও অনেক অতিরিক্ত সেস্ তিনি আদায় করেন। Settlement record এ ৵১০ পয়সা কোরে আছে, জমিদার মহাশয় চার পয়সা পর্য্যন্তও আদায় করেন। প্রজারা ধান বিক্রির জন্য হয়তো খাল ব্যবহার কোরবে এই সম্ভাবনার উপর স্টোর খাজনা আদায় করেন। তা তারা বিক্রয় করুক বা না করুক। জমিদার মহাশয় তাহার দরুণ খাজনা আগেই আদায় করে রাখেন। গোচারণের তাঁর ভূমি নাই গভর্ণমেণ্টের ভূমিতে প্রজারা গরু চরাবে তার জন্য এই জমিদার মহাশয়কে ট্যাক্স দিতে হবে। নিকাসী বাবদ অর্থাৎ হিসাবী আনা বাবদ মোহরারগণ পাঁচ টাকা পর্য্যন্তে ৷৷৹ আনা, তদধিক ১০৲টাকায় ১৲ টাকা, তদধিক ২০৲ টাকায় ১৷৷৹ টাকা, তদধিক ৫০৲ টাকায় ২৷৷৹ টাকা এবং ১০০৲ টাকায় ৩৲ হিসাবে আদায় করেন। এমন কি প্রজারা পাছে জমিদারের কাছারিতে গিয়ে তামাক খায় সেই জন্য জমা প্রতি এক আনা করে তামাক সাজানি আদায় করেন। তাছাড়া প্রজাদের পুত্র কন্যার বিবাহের বেলায় তাঁকে টাকা দিতে হয়। কোন প্রজা যদি মারা পড়ে এবং দুর্ভাগ্যক্রমে যদি তার ছেলে থাকে তাহলে তার ছেলেকে জমিদার বাবুর কাছারী থেকে সে যে বাপের অধ্য প্রাপ্ত কোরবে তার জন্য অনুমতি নিতে হয় এবং সে জন্য কিছু খরচও হয়। ৭ত ৩রা নভেম্বর প্রজারা এসব বিষয় মাননীয় রাজস্ব সচিব, প্রধান মন্ত্রী, কালেক্টরকে জানিয়েছে কিন্তু এ পর্য্যন্ত তার কোন প্রতিকার হয় নাই। এ আমি যদিও শুধু একটী জমিদারের বিষয় বোল্লাম, কিন্তু আমার আসল বক্তব্য হচ্ছে এই যে—বাংলা দেশের প্রায় সমস্ত জমিদারই ঐরকম কার্য্য চালিয়েছেন। আমাদের যে সব temporarily settled খাস মহাল সেখানেও depression এর সময় আমাদের খাজনা বৃদ্ধি হোয়েছে। এবং আমাদের অনেক কিছু লেখা জোখি ও ধরা ধরি করা স্বত্বেও রাজস্ব সচিব মহাশয় বৃদ্ধি খাজনাটা আদায় করাটা মাত্র বন্ধ রেখেছেন, কিন্তু আমরা আশা করি তিনি শেষ পর্য্যন্ত সেটা রেহাই কোরবেন। বাংলা দেশের সর্ব্বত্রই আগের মতনই আবোয়াব ও বৃদ্ধি খাজনার প্রাদুর্ভাব দেখতে পাচ্ছি। (Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: Question!) আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি যে তাঁরা এর কোন প্রতিকার কোরবেন কিনা? তাঁরা আজো প্রজাদিগকে জমিদারের হাতে ছেড়ে দিয়েই সন্তুষ্ট রয়েছেন, তাঁদের নিজেদের পাওনাটা আদায় হলেই হোলো। অন্য কোন দিকে লক্ষ্য করার আর প্রয়োজন বোধ তাঁদের নাই। আমি বোর্জাই এখনো যদি তাদের সব দিকে দৃষ্টি দেওয়ার সময় না হয়ে থাকে, এখনো যদি তাঁরা মনে করেন যে আমরা এই ভাবেই কাল কাটিয়ে দিতে পারবো, তাহলে আমি মনে করি যে তাঁদের সে আশা অচিরেই নিদারুণ হতাশায় পরিণত হবে, এবং বাংলা দেশে যে একটা গুরুতর বিপ্লবের সূচনা হবে, তাতে আমাদের মত সখের মন্ত্রী ও সখের মেম্বর সবাইকেই ভেসে যেতে হবে।

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: There is a motion dealing with Alienation of Lands Bill standing in my name which I do not want to move, but I want to take this opportunity to say a few words upon the subject.

When the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Bill, 1937, was being piloted by the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad I gave notice of an amendment the purport of which was the retention of section 26 (*E*) of the Act intact. This section dealt with court sales, with provision of landlords' fee, without which no decree-holder, except in rent decrees, could take possession of the land purchased in auction in the execution of the decree. The object underlying the amendment was apparent.

As there was no Land Alienation Act in the province like the one in the Punjab, this section helps a good deal the cultivating *raiyats* and under-*raiyats* from being robbed of their land by village *mahajans*. I do not understand how the cultivators have been benefited

by the abolition of *salami* in court sales; on the contrary, it is my considered opinion that this has been to the advantage of the *mahajans* to the detriment of the interests of the *proja*. From my experience, as the Deputy Chairman of the Pabna Central Bank, I know that the rural banks under the said Central Bank had to forego "awards" to the extent of over a lakh on their inability to pay landlords' fee, amounting to over Rs. 20,000. Now, I ask, who was benefited? Undoubtedly the cultivating *raiyats* and under-*raiyats* who were the debtors. I know of a pleader friend, that out of 12 money suits in his *sherista*, only in one, the landlords' fee was paid and decree executed, and the rest went scot-free.

Sir, there was also a tough fight at our party meeting, one section fighting on the principle of abolishing the *salami* altogether from the Statute, and the other, on the effect it would produce if this kind of *salami* was abolished. And at last a compromise was effected, and it was decided that I would not press my amendment and that the Government would bring in a Bill on the line of the Punjab Alienation of Lands Act. Sir, as you will find from the wordings of the compromise, there was some loophole. So I resolved to move my amendment with the sole object of getting an assurance from the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister on the floor of the House that such a Bill would be brought in at the earliest opportunity. Sir, if you remember aright, when I was on my legs for moving this amendment, Mr. Shahabuddin, the Chief Government Whip, ran up to me and dissuaded me from moving the amendment on the express understanding that a Land Alienation Bill would be introduced in no time. But nothing was done in February session of 1938 and at last I was forced to submit a private Bill and a copy of the draft Bill was duly forwarded to you, but thanks to the rules of the Assembly I got no chance of introducing it in the House. I then made over a copy of my draft Bill to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister who was pleased to pass the following order in my presence, "Before Cabinet Meeting, 17th April". But nothing came to light as to the fate of the Bill till the 11th of June, 1938, when the Hon'ble the Chief Minister wrote me a letter which *inter alia* contained the following lines: "As regards the suggestions you have made, I have passed them on to the Revenue Department and two Bills, at any rate, are under preparation in accordance with your directions. They will be sent to you as soon as they are drafted by the Legislative Department and you will find that they will be entirely satisfactory from your point of view."

Although this letter was dated the 11th June, 1938, no such Bill came before the House in the last July session of the Assembly and as I was under the impression that the Government would bring the Bill, I did not submit a fresh one to you for its introduction in the said session and the net result was that no such Bill ever saw the

light of the day. This made me lose all my faith in the activity of the Cabinet and when this somehow or other was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister, he wrote me a letter on 8th November, 1938, which amongst others contained the following few lines, "I sent directions and suggestions to the Legislative Department and I believe they have got the Bills in draft which have not been finally completed on account of pressure of work."

Sir, from what I have said, you will be able to understand that in spite of all promises and assurances, the Government have not yet thought fit to bring such a Bill, for the non-passing of which an abnormal sale of *raiyati* holdings is taking place in the *mufassil* and if such transfers go on at the same rate as in the last few months (since the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Bill had a place in the Statute) all the cultivating *raiyats* and under-*raiyats* will be landless at no distant future and all agricultural holdings will pass on to the non-cultivating parasites in no time.

It may be said how then will the *mahajans* recover the money? It will be interesting to calculate how much a *mahajan* with only a capital of Rs. 100 earns in 30 years even if he does not ever charge interest at more than 2 pice per rupee per month the prevailing rate, and never charges any compound interest. It will be seen that he becomes a man of Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 thousand even if he has to write off a like amount as bad debts; such a class deserves no sympathy; they have earned much, they have exploited enough the poor illiterate debtors for generations, and it must be stopped for ever.

This is the reason why I am pressing for such a Bill and I want that such a Bill must be introduced without the least delay.

Along with the passing of this Bill, provision must also be made for rural credit and I believe the amount required for the purpose will not be much. During the last flood when 15 out of 25 districts were affected, as found from the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's speech, a sum of about Rs. 50 lakhs was advanced as loan and that helped the poor agriculturists, at least to pull on. I do not say the amount was sufficient, but this gives us an idea as to how much would be required for this purpose to begin with. I would never advocate big loans to these illiterate folks. I am prepared to give them just sufficient to pull on for the time being. Easy facility for loan from village *mahajan* has reduced them to this present state of insolvency.

I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will give me an assurance that he will bring forward a Bill of the nature I have just suggested, at an early date.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cesses of the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Bankura and also of other

districts have been so greatly increased that it has become impossible for them to pay. Now, Sir, in connection with my recent tour in these districts with the Bengal Forest Committee I have come to know that the cesses of the jungles have also been doubly enhanced, whereas the price of jungle products has not been increased. In order to pay the cess the owners of jungles are compelled to cut their jungles at a rotation of three years and for this short rotation the jungles are going to be destroyed. The jungle owners have to pay the cess though the jungle has disappeared. Cesses were fixed when the price of staple food was high, but it has now been greatly reduced. So revaluation is absolutely necessary. The middle-class tenants who lease out their land to actual cultivators have also to pay cesses, and these cesses are so high that they have scarcely a small margin after paying the landlord's rent and the cess. In view of the reduction of the price of paddy, reduction in cess and rent is absolutely necessary. I earnestly request the Revenue Minister to order for the revaluation. The province of Bihar begins just on the border of Asansol subdivision and the Congress Government there are sending their officers to the different villages inviting petitions from tenants and are reducing their rent to a great extent. But our Ministers are practically doing nothing for the reduction of rent. Far from reducing the rent they should at least reduce the cess which was increased under different circumstances.

I wish to draw the attention of the Revenue Minister to the enhancement of four annas in the rupee under the Bengal Tenancy Act section 30(*b*), for the rise in the price of staple food. Though the price has fallen, the rent has not been reduced. The landlords are realising the rent and the poor tenants cannot bring suit in the courts for want of money or for fear of the landlord.

Sir, before I sit down I would request the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister to order for the revaluation of the cess and reduction of rent.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 28,96,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the exorbitant rate of rent realised from the tenants and cultivators by officers of zemindars.

Sir, বাংলার যারা চাষী, যারা সত্যিকারের কৃষক তাদের উপকারের জন্য যদিও এই House এ চীৎকার করা হোচ্ছে, আমার মনে হয় এখনো পর্যন্ত তাদের প্রকৃত উপকার ঠিকমত করা হয় নাই। বাংলার চাষীদের সঙ্গে সম্বন্ধ গভর্ণমেণ্টের যতটুকু থাক আর নাই থাক, তাদের সঙ্গে অন্ততঃ খাজনা নিয়ে, জমিদারদেরই সম্বন্ধটা খুব বেশী। তাদের খাজনার হার কমানোর জন্য তাদের নিকট থেকে আবোয়াব বা অন্যবিধ বে-আইনী আদায় বন্ধ করার জন্য যদিও ১৯৩৮ সালে প্রজাস্বত্ব আইন সংশোধন করা হয়েছে, তবু দুঃখী প্রজা ও গরীব চাষীদের কাছ থেকে জমিদারের কর্ম্মচারীরা এখনও নানা আকারে, নানা নামে প্রায় সেই ভাবেই অত্যাচার কোরে তাদের কাছ থেকে বাজে আদায় কোরছে। এই বাজে আদায় সম্বন্ধে যতই আইন করা হোক না কেন গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে ভালো রকম বন্দোবস্ত না নিলে

এই বাজে আদায় বন্ধ হবে না। চোর চুরি কোরলে, ডাকাত ডাকাতি কোরলে শাস্তি পাবে—এই আইন বহুদিন থেকে আছে কিন্তু চুরি ও ডাকাতি বন্ধ করার জন্য বহু সহস্র টাকা ব্যয় কোরে যেমন পুলিশের ব্যবস্থা কোরতে হয়েছে, তেমনি বাজে আদায় সম্পর্কে আইন কোরে বোসে থাকলেই চোলবে না, যাতে জমিদারের কর্ম্মচারীরা অন্যায় কোরে নিরীহ নিরাস্ত্র প্রজাদের কাছ থেকে বাজে আদায় বন্ধ কোরতে বাধ্য হন সেই চেষ্টা গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ থেকে অবলম্বন করা আবশ্যক। প্রজাদের ভিতর বর্ত্তমান সময়ে ঘুরলে দেখা যায়—হয়তো অনেক জায়গায় অবোয়াব উঠে গেছে বোলে একটা হাওয়া চোলেছে, সেইজন্য জমিদারের নায়েব-গোমস্তারা আবোয়াব বোলে কিছু নিতে পারে না, কিন্তু তারা অন্যভাবে নেয়। যেমন আমরা দেখেছি—যে সমস্ত জায়গায় বাঁধের ব্যবস্থা আছে, এবং সেই সব বাঁধ জমিদারদের হাতে আছে, জমিদারের কর্ম্মচারীগণ সেই সব জায়গায় প্রজাদের নিকট উপঢৌকন চাইলে যদি প্রজারা দিতে অস্বীকার করে, তাহলে তারা বাঁধ রক্ষা কোরবে না বোলে ভয় দেখায়। তারা যদি ঐ বাঁধ রক্ষা না করে, তাহলে গরীব প্রজাদের উহা রক্ষা করার ক্ষমতা নাই। বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে নোনা জল গেলে ফসল নষ্ট হবে, এক বৎসরের ফসল নষ্ট হোলে গরীব চাষীরা পরের বৎসর অনাহারে মারা যাবে—সুতরাং জমিদারের নায়েব-গোমস্তাকে কিছু উপঢৌকন দিলে যদি বাঁধের অবস্থা ভালো থাকে তবে সে উপঢৌকন তারা সহজেই দিতে রাজি হয়। এসম্বন্ধে খুলনার ও ২৪-পরগণার দক্ষিণস্থ সুন্দরবনের হাজার হাজার প্রজা মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে বহু দরখাস্ত কোরে পাঠিয়েছেন। যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজের হাতে এই বাঁধ রক্ষার ভার নেন, যাতে বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে নোনা জল ঢুকে গরীব চাষীদের ফসল নষ্ট না হয়, তাহা দেখেন, তাহলে জমিদারের কর্ম্মচারীরা আর ঐভাবে ভয় দেখাইয়া গরীবদের নিকট হোতে বাজে আদায় করার সাহস পাবে না।

বাংলা দেশের খাজনা তদন্ত করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে এক (Rent Enquiry Committee) কমিটি গঠন করা হোয়েছে, প্রায় এক বৎসর হয়ে গেলো, সে তদন্ত কমিটি নিযুক্ত হয়েছে, জানি না কবে সে কমিটির তদন্তের ফলাফল আমরা দেখতে পাবো। খাজনা তদন্ত কমিটি সম্বন্ধে যা দেখা গেছে তাতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট খাজনা সম্বন্ধে একটা গড় তদন্ত কোরে দেখাতে চান যে, খাজনা আমাদের কম। এটা যেমন গড়ে হাঁটু জল বোলে জল কম দেখানোর মতন একটা ব্যাপার। কিন্তু আসলে যেখানে হাঁটু জলের চেয়ে অনেক বেশী জল সেটাকেও হাঁটু জল বোলে চালিয়ে দিলে তদন্তের কোনই ফল হবে না। কারণ, কোন কোন জায়গায় হয়তো এত বেশী খাজনা আছে যে প্রজা কিছুতেই সেটা বহন কোরে উঠতে পারছে না। সেই জন্য আমার মনে হয় গড় খাজনা দেখিয়ে যদি তদন্ত কমিটির সভ্যগণকে ধাপ্পা দেওয়া হয় তাহলে এই তদন্ত কমিটি দ্বারা চাষীদের মঙ্গল কিছুই হবে না। প্রকৃত প্রস্তাবে চাষীদের যদি সত্যই উপকার করার চেষ্টা করা হয়—চাষীদের খাজনা যদি ফসলের অনুপাতে নির্দ্ধারণ কোরে তাদের উপকার কোরতে হয়—তাহলে এরকম গড় খাজনা ঠিক না কোরে মৌজায় মৌজায় খাজনার পরিমাণ কি হারে আছে সেটার তদন্ত করার বিশেষ আবশ্যক। তারপরে খাজনা কোথায় ঠিক আছে বা কোথায় কমাতে হবে—সে বিষয়ে নির্দ্ধারণ করা একান্ত আবশ্যক।

MR. GIASUDDIN AHMED: সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমি আমার বন্ধু আব্দুল জব্বর পাজোয়ানের প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরতে উঠে দু একটা কথা বোলতে চাই। তাঁর প্রস্তাবের মর্ম্ম হচ্ছে এই যে বাংলা দেশের কৃষক প্রজার যেকোন খাজনা এবং যে সব খাজনা ডিক্রি হয়েছে তার অর্দ্ধেক মাপ করা হোক। এর চেয়ে সাধু-প্রস্তাব, প্রয়োজনীয় প্রস্তাব এবং গুরুত্বপূর্ণ প্রস্তাব বর্ত্তমান সময়ে এসেমব্লী হাউসে এসেছে কি না সন্দেহ। একথা সকলেই জানেন এবং স্বীকার করেন যে বাংলা দেশের সর্ব্ব প্রধান সমস্যা হচ্ছে কৃষক প্রজার সমস্যা। এবং কৃষক প্রজার সর্ব্ব প্রথম ও সর্ব্ব প্রধান সমস্যা হচ্ছে তাদের পর্ব্বত-প্রমান খাজনা ও ঋণের সমাধানের সমস্যা। গভর্ণমেণ্টের রিপোর্টে বলা হয়েছে যে একশত কোটি টাকা তাদের ঋণের পরিমাণ, এই সঙ্গে যদি বাকি খাজনা ধরা যায় তাহলে আরও যে কত কোটি টাকা হবে আপনারা সহজেই বুঝতে পারেন। আমি অত্যন্ত দুঃখিত এবং লজ্জিত হয়েছি দেখে, যেই মাত্র পাজোয়ান সাহেব তাঁর পশ্চাদ্বর্ত্তী হাউসের সামনে উপস্থিত কোরতে

ছিলেন তখন অনেকেই তাঁকে হাসি ঠাট্টা কোরেছেন। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি সকল প্রতিনিধিকে, অবশ্য জমিদার এবং য়ুরোপীয়ান প্রতিনিধিগণ ছাড়া, তাঁরা সকলে নিজ নিজ বুকে হাত দিয়ে নিজের মনকে জিজ্ঞাসা করুন এই শ্রেণীর প্রস্তাবের প্রয়োজন আছে কি না? যাদের ভোটে আমরা আজ এখানে এসেছি, বাংলা দেশ বোলতে যাদের বোঝায়, বাংলার কোটি কোটি মানুষ বোলতে যাদের বোঝায়, সেই কোটি কোটি কৃষক প্রজার বর্ত্তমান অবস্থার যদি সমাধান কোরতে হয় তাহলে মুখে কেবল চিৎকার কোরলেই হবে না, কেবল Islam in danger এর ধুয়ো তুলে Muslim League জিন্দাবাদ বা হিন্দু সভা জিন্দাবাদ এই সব বুলি আওড়ালে কিছুই হবে না, তাদের সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য এক-দুই, তিন কোরে কিছু কিছু প্রকৃত কাজের অনুষ্ঠান কোরতে হবে। দেখতে দেখতে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়ার পর প্রায় দুবৎসর চোলে গেলো কিন্তু কৃষক প্রজার প্রকৃত উপকারের জন্য কিছু মাত্র কাজ এদের কোরতে দেখতি না। এই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের কার্য্যকলাপে আমরা সম্পূর্ণভাবে নিরাশ হোয়েছি। এবং আমার মনে হয় coalition party র বন্ধুগণও এ সম্বন্ধে একমত। তাঁদের ভিতরও কারো কারো মনে হচ্ছে যে এ মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের দ্বারা কিছুই হোতে পারে না। তার কারণ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের অধিকাংশই জমিদার। তাদের স্বার্থ আর কৃষক সমাজের স্বার্থ সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীত। তাঁরা কৃষক প্রজাদের শোষণ কোরেই বড় হচ্ছেন, সুতরাং কৃষকরা শোষণের হাত হোতে যতই বাঁচতে চাইবে ততই জমিদার বড় লোকের স্বার্থ কোমে যাবে। অতএব বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের দ্বারা কৃষকদের কোন উপকার যে হবে না আমাদের এ সিদ্ধান্ত কিছুই অমূলক নয়। এবং আশা করি আমাদের বন্ধুদের মধ্যেও অনেকে মনে মনে এই সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ কোরেছেন।

এ সম্বন্ধে আমার আর একটি বক্তব্য এই যে বাংলার কৃষকের যদি উপকার কোরতে হয় তাহলে তাদের বাকি খাজনা অর্দ্ধেক মাপ এবং ঋণ মকুব না কোরলে হবে না। বর্ত্তমানে কৃষক প্রজার যে অবস্থা তাতে তারা দৈনন্দিন খরচ চালাতে পারে না। তারা পেট পুরে খেতে পায় না, পরণের কাপড় যোগাড় কোরতে পারে না, ওষুধের অভাবে দিনের পর দিন ম্যালেরিয়া, কলেরা প্রভৃতি রোগে বিনা চিকিৎসায় মোরছে। তাই আমাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি এ পর্য্যন্ত আমাদের নিঃসহায় কৃষক প্রজাদের রক্ষা করার জন্য কি তারা কোরেছেন? তাছাড়া আমাদের যে মস্ত বড় একটা demand ছিলো, বাংলা দেশের কৃষক প্রজার অবৈতনিক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার বন্দোবস্ত করা হউক; সে সম্বন্ধে কথা উঠলেই তাঁরা বলেন যে টাকা নাই। Administration এর খরচ কমিয়ে অনাবশ্যক জায়গা থেকে টাকা আনার কথা তুলে তারা তখন যুক্তি দেখান যে সেটা একেবারেই সম্ভবপর নয়। এদেশের কৃষক প্রজার যদি উপকার কোরতে হয় তাহলে আমাদের বোলতে হবে তাদের খাজনা ও ঋণ কমানো ছাড়া তাদের উপকার করার আর অন্য পন্থা নাই অথচ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, I would only speak about the hardships of certificate procedure. I do not like to enter into the merits or demerits of the certificate procedure, but it is admitted on all hands that certificates cause some hardship to the tenants, because they are issued at a time when the tenants are least able to pay, otherwise, in flourishing time there is no need for issuing certificates, because the tenants then pay of their own accord. They know very well that unless they pay up their rent dues their lands will be sold, and they and their children will have to suffer for that. As a matter of fact, tenants pay their rent dues first of all, if, of course, they are able to pay. So in order to mitigate this hardship of the certificate procedure, our Government gave an assurance that no certificates will be issued for two years for the realisation of rent, but Sir, I am constrained to remark that the

assurance of the Government has not been acted up to, and it has been rendered a dead letter by the workings of the Revenue Department. Certificates for the realisation of rent have been extensively permitted under the cover of section 99 of the Cess Act and the Garnishee procedure permitted under the Public Demands Recovery Act. Recently in my constituency, a flood-affected and extremely distressed area, a pargana was attached and certificates were permitted to be issued against tenants who ere long were receiving loans and gratuities from Government. I must confess that I, as a supporter of Government, feel ashamed at this going back of the Government from its declared policy. I hope Government will yet prove true to their words and stop all resorts to certificates for the realisation of rent at least for the term of their promise. I hope definite assurances will be forthcoming from Government in this respect and they will not take shelter behind prevarication.

Another thing which I would like to stress is about the wages which are being paid to the labourers at the test relief centres. Bare annas two has been prescribed for digging and carrying 100 cubic feet of earth. Taking for granted that a labourer can dig a pit and a half per diem, which is very difficult at this time of the year when earth has stiffened much, he earns only 3 annas a day. That is ludicrously low and insufficient for even the bare food of the labourer himself. Sir, we can imagine what help and consolation these relief works are likely to constitute for the distressed people. Yet I can speak from personal knowledge that people are clinging to this work to keep body and soul together. I can anticipate that the Famine Code and its sections will be cited, but I ask the Government why apply that antiquated and anachronic Code when—

(The member reached the time-limit and was allowed half a minute to complete his speech.)

Why apply that, when you do not mean to declare famine. Besides, what is there in the Code which does not allow liberal wages. I see no difficulty even under the present section of the Famine Code to allow 4 annas to 6 annas as wages to labourers. I hope Government will take steps and issue instructions to District Magistrates so that these distressed people can get liberal wages.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: In support of the motion moved by Mr. Amrita Lal Mondal, I rise to speak a few words. The main question arises as to who are the bona fide fishermen and what are their grievances and in what condition they are passing their days. This is the thing to be discussed in this House. At the outset, I submit that those who actually catch and sell fish are the poor fishermen, but so far as the question of bona fide fishermen is concerned, I submit that there was a time when Bengal was prosperous, when there was no economic depression and when there was no want of financial stringency, and the

people of Bengal were so much proud and orthodox that they thought it beneath their dignity to catch and sell fish. At that time, there was a class of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, e.g., Jelias, Jhalos and Malos, who were in the habit of catching and selling fish. They are the bona fide fishermen of Bengal. But as a result of the economic depression of the province the current has turned otherwise, and the people of Bengal, forgetting their dignity and principle of aristocracy, have come down to deal with the business of catching and selling fish. As a result of this, big and influential men of the locality have taken to catching and selling fish as their occupation, and so the unfortunate and poor men who are the bona fide fishermen have been deprived of their own bona fide occupation. This is the situation. So far as the condition of the bona fide fishermen is concerned, it is painful for me to submit that they have, as a matter of fact, got no landed property, save and except their homestead lands. They are the poorest of the poor. From my own experience, I can say that 99 per cent. of them are illiterate and fishery is the only means of their livelihood, but they have no permanent or fixed right in the fishery.

That being the situation, the influential or I mean to say richer section of the people who have now come down to the business of fishery are depriving the *bona fide* fishermen from their *bona fide* right in fishery.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED AHMED KHAN: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি আমার বন্ধু আব্দুল হুমর পাল্লোয়ান সাহেবের প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করি। তার প্রস্তাবে আছে - বাংলা দেশের কৃষকদের শতকরা ৫০৲ টাকা কোরে খাজনা কমিয়ে দেওয়া এবং যে সমস্ত দেনা তাদের বিরুদ্ধে ডিক্রি হোয়ে আছে তারও অর্দ্ধেক দাবি কমিয়ে দেওয়া। আজ কৃষকদের যে দুরবস্থা, যেরূপ করছারে তারা আজ প্রপীড়িত তাতে তাদের পক্ষে বাকি খাজনা বা দেনা শোধ করা অসম্ভব। সেইজন্য আজ খাজনার ডিক্রি ও দেনার দায়ে তাঁদের সম্পত্তি নিলাম বিক্রি তো হচ্ছেই তার উপরও তাদের বিরুদ্ধে অনেক বাজে দেনার ডিক্রি থেকে যাচ্ছে। এ অবস্থায় যদি তাদের "পিছুলে দেনা" মাপ না করা হয়, এবং খাজনা কমিয়ে না দেওয়া হয়, তাহলে তাদের বাঁচা মুস্কিল। গত বন্যার সময় তাদের সব রকমের ফসল নষ্ট হোয়ে গেছে তজ্জন্য তারা আজ না খেয়ে মোরছে। আমাদের নোয়াখালি জেলার কৃষকদের বিশেষ কোরে স্বন্দীপের কৃষকদের যে কী দারুণ দুরবস্থা তা বিগত জানুয়ারী মাসে Chief Minister সাহেব স্বয়ং যখন স্বন্দীপ গিয়েছিলেন তখন স্বচক্ষেই প্রত্যক্ষ কোরে এসেছেন। সেখানে লোক সব না খেয়ে মোরে যাচ্ছে। নোয়াখালীর কৃষকনেতা মৌলবী ফজলুল্লা ex-M. L. C. সাহেবকে যখন প্রধান মন্ত্রী হক সাহেবকে এই দুর্ভিক্ষের কথা জানাইয়াছিলেন তখন হক সাহেব বিশেষ ভাবে উদ্বিগ্ন হয়ে উঠেছিলেন, কিন্তু আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয় এই যে আজ পর্য্যন্তও তিনি তার কোন প্রতিকার কোরছেন না। লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা যে নোয়াখালিবাসীরা বাস করছে খাজনা দেয়; নোয়াখালী সহর যেমনার প্রকোপে ছেলে যাচ্ছে, হাজার হাজার লোকের ঘর বাড়ী ও লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার বিষয় সম্পত্তি ধ্বংশ হয়ে গেছে, কিন্তু নোয়াখালী বাঁধ দিয়ে তাদের বাড়ী ঘর রক্ষার কোন ব্যবস্থাই গভর্ণমেন্ট এ পর্য্যন্ত কোরছেন না। অথচ প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেব, সার বিজয়প্রসাদ সিংহ, রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টার, নবাব হবিবুল্লা সাহেব, অর্থ সচিব মহাশয়, পূর্ত্ত মন্ত্রী

প্রভৃতি সকলেই বোয়াখালি visit কোরেছেন, এবং তাদের দুঃখ দুর্দ্দশা সব নিজেদের চোখে দেখে এসেছেন, তথাপি বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে তাদের কষ্ট লাঘবের কোন ব্যবস্থা তাঁরা করেন নাই। মেঘনার সঙ্গমস্থলে ডাকাতিয়া নদীর মুখ বন্ধ হইয়া যাওয়াতে রায়পুরে, লক্ষ্মীপুরে, প্রভৃতি অঞ্চল বিগত বন্যার সময় ডুবে গিয়েছিলো, বহু লোক না খেয়ে মরেছে এখনও সেখানে দুর্ভিক্ষ লেগে আছে— সেখানে শ্রমিক মন্ত্রী সাহেব গিয়েছিলেন কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত ডাকাতিয়া নদীর মুখ কেটে মেঘনার সঙ্গে সংযোগ করিয়া দিয়া উক্ত অঞ্চলের জল চলাচলের বন্দোবস্ত কিছু মাত্র করা হলো না। অথচ সেখানে মুখে তিনি লম্বা লম্বা বক্তৃতা কোরে এসেছেন। বর্ত্তমানে দেশের লোক যে না খেয়ে মোরছে, গ্রামে কোন কিছু রোজগারের অভাবে বেকার ছোরে মানুষ সব ছুটে যাচ্ছে কারখানার দিকে সেখানে ধনিক সম্প্রদায় চালাচ্ছে গুলি। আজকে বেকার ফেডারেশনের মির আহমত আলী, মিসেস্ আহমত আলী ও আসমৎ আলির মাতা এবং মনোরঞ্জন দাস প্রভৃতি বেকার যুবকগণ অনশন কোরে আছেন। কোয়ালিশন পার্টির অনেক মেম্বর সেখানে গিয়েছেন কিন্তু তবু এই মন্ত্রী মন্ডলীর নিদ্রাভঙ্গ হয় নাই। (Shame, shame) আজ বাঙ্গালার দিকে দিকে লক্ষ লক্ষ নর নারী না খেয়ে অনশনে মোরছে, বাংলার অযোগ্য, ও অকর্ম্মণ্য মন্ত্রী মন্ডলীর এই যুবকদের ও কৃষকদের কোন বন্দোবস্ত কোরছে না। এঁরা সর্ব্বদা মুস্লিমলীগের কথা বলেন আর ইস্লাম বিপন্ন হওয়ার দোহাই দেন। কিন্তু যখন অগণিত মুসলমান সন্তান আজ দিকে দিকে না খেয়ে মোরছে স্থানে স্থানে কল কারখানা ও শিল্প কার্য্য প্রচলন দ্বারা যে তাদের জীবনে বাঁচিয়া থাকার কোন বন্দোবস্ত বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী মন্ডলী করছে না। তাদিগকে জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি যে মোস্লেম লিগের ধুয়া ধোরে আর গ্রামে যাওয়া চলবে না। লোকের এই দারুণ অভাবের প্রধান কারণ জমিদারী প্রথা। বাংলার জমিদারগণ কৃষক প্রজার উপর যে অত্যাচার অবিচার চালিয়েছেন, যে শোষণ প্রথা চালিয়েছেন তার ফলেই বাংলার আজ এই দুর্দ্দশা। তাই এই জমিদারী প্রথা একদম উচ্ছেদ না কোরলে আর চোলছে না। এই প্রতিক্রীয়াশীল মন্ত্রী মন্ডলী আজ কি কোরছেন তারা বিদেশ থেকে সাহেব আম্দানি কোরে এদেশের কতকগুলি জমিদারকে তাদের সঙ্গে দিয়ে কৃষকদের খাজনা কমাইবার অজুহাতে ফ্যাটড্ কমিশন গঠন কোরে যে ধাপ্পাবাজী কৃষকদের উপর চালিয়েছেন, তাদের সে ধাপ্পাবাজী কৃষক সমাজ ধোরে ফেলেছে। দেশের লোকের খাজনা কমাবার জন্য বিদেশ থেকে সাহেব আমদানি করে ইন্‌কোয়ারিতে ২।৩ বৎসর সময় ব্যয় করিয়া এই মন্ত্রীদের সময় অতিবাহিত করার মতন ভুয়া বন্দোবস্তের ফলে যে সকল কৃষকদের ঘর বাড়ী বিঘা সম্পত্তি দেনার দায়ে জমিদারদের হাত হইয়া যাইবে তাহার জন্য দায়ী বর্ত্তমান এই মন্ত্রী মন্ডলী, যারা তাদের ভোট দিয়ে এখানে পাঠিয়েছে তারা এবং তাদের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে, সারা বাংলা ও ভারতবর্ষের লোক আজ একথা স্বীকার কোরছে যে বাংলার , cabinet অযোগ্য, ও অকর্ম্মণ্য, তাই বাংলার কৃষক——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MD. AMIR ALI MIA: মাননীয় স্পিকার সাহেব, রাজসাহী জিলার সদর সবডিভিসনের অন্তর্গত কতকগুলি ইউনিয়নের গ্রাম বন্যার জলে ভাসিয়া গিয়াছে। এই কারণ ঐ সমস্ত ইউনিয়নের কৃষকদিগের অবস্থা অত্যন্ত শোচনীয়। ঐ সমস্ত কৃষকদিগের নিকট জমিদারগণ অত্যাচার করিয়া যাহাতে খাজানা আদায় না করেন এবং যে সমস্ত স্থানে জমিদারগণ খাজানা আদায় বেশী হারে করিতেছেন তাহা গভর্ণমেণ্ট সত্বর তদন্ত করিয়া যাহাতে খাজানা কম হয় কৃষকগণ বাঁচিতে পারে এরূপ সুবন্দোবস্ত করেন।

আমার আরও একটি কথা বলিবার আছে, যে সব কৃষকের ফসল মারা গিয়াছে তাহাদের অন্ততঃ পক্ষে এক বৎসরের খাজানা মাপ করিয়া দেওয়া হউক এবং যাহাদের বকেয়া খাজনা বাকী আছে তাহাদের অর্দ্ধেক বকেয়া খাজনা মাপ দিয়া অন্য অর্দ্ধেকের দীর্ঘ কালের জন্য কিস্তিবন্দি করিয়া দেওয়া হউক। ইহাই আমার প্রস্তাব।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. I have carefully listened to the debate on all sides of the House and I have examined all the motions for which notices were given. It appears to me that we are after all carrying on a most fruitless and thankless task. We have prayed for relief, we have claimed the reduction of rent, we have drawn attention to the Gumti flood and this and that indeed, but after all the supreme question of how best to re-establish the economic life of the province has not received at our hands enough and adequate attention. The whole debate appears to me to be unreal. If we cannot evolve through our discussion, through the discussion in this House of people on whose hands the destiny of the entire province is depending, a scheme which will for all time to come set at rest the question of small petty reliefs, nothing real and tangible will come. I feel, Sir, that the time has come for us on the floor of the house and even outside to claim re-arrangement of the entire economic life of the province and of India on an entirely new line. As you all know, the question of reduction of rent from Re. 1 to 12 annas is not going to give relief to our peasantry. The question should be approached boldly and squarely. The time has come when we have to examine whether the land revenue system as a whole should not be replaced, whether we should not try the experiments which the other countries are doing for the uplift of mankind. The Parliamentary Government as we are carrying on to-day is based on the recognition of private property for yourself and for myself and the time has come for all of us to examine how far that Parliamentary Government based on recognition of private property is going really to relieve the distressed. I ask you, Sir, in all humility if you are not prepared to concede that every child born in this unhappy land of ours has a right to live, that every cultivator who grows something on the soil has got the right to keep for his own poor existence the minimum out of his produce. And when he has got sufficient for that, then and then alone the question of rent may come in. I want the House to examine the whole principle of payment of rent.

I want the Government to examine the whole principle of payment of rent. Payment of rent is based on a recognition of an adventitious right to private lands by a few people who have to-day managed to be in possession of that land. Are you going to allow that kind of economic distribution which is actually sapping the very life-blood of the nation? The time has come, Sir, I ask my friends, when you have to find out if the conception of rent itself has not got to be revised absolutely. We have income-tax. Those who are not earning income on land have the privilege of retaining a minimum for their existence and they go scot-free. Up to a limit of Rs. 2,000 they have the amount for themselves to live upon. Why should we not have that kind of economic limit maintained for those who raise food from land? Let

them have that economic level fixed and thereafter if there is any surplus, then alone they must be made to contribute something by way of tax, contribution or rent towards the maintenance of the State and the responsibilities that the State is called upon to perform. If you have got to conceive of a situation like that the only thing that you could do to-day to start with is to buy up all land and have the ownership retained in the hands of the State. To-day if you allow the numerous private individual proprietors to multiply you will never get that millennium when alone you can at one stroke give permanent relief to the entire population of the province. I ask you in all seriousness if you are not prepared for that eventuality? It may seem revolutionary to-day but such a transformation is bound to come to-morrow or the day after. Are you not prepared for that eventuality when we will all have to sink our differences, give up our private property and belongings in the interests of society, and in the interests of mankind? In order to give a start to that, we have to conceive of an entirely new social order. With that end in view it is time for us to give a new direction to the Land Revenue Commission. We have an enquiry going on by the Rent Enquiry Committee. I understand that they are sitting from time to time most casually. Let that Rent Committee sit and examine carefully whether they can really mark out, and calculate what they can leave for the peasant and what they can take out of his hands. To-day it is not at all possible to take anything out of his hands. If that is the position let us take all land in the hands of the State and redistribute the land to such people alone who will have the land for direct cultivation and for no other purpose. There cannot be intermediaries of any kind. If that is possible, then alone you can think of a better living, a better order, and some kind of permanent relief to the cultivators. I am looking forward to that day and with that in view I am supporting the motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, you have been pleased to remind me that the time at my disposal is extremely short. I think more than 14 motions have been moved and about 20 speakers have spoken on the cut motions. I naturally find it difficult to meet all the arguments that have been advanced by the various speakers. Sir, I will try to deal with the resolutions seriatim within the short time at my disposal.

First of all comes the resolution moved by my friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. He is for buying up all the superior interests in land, that is the zemindars! That is his suggestion. Sir, at least for intellectual enjoyment it is refreshing for us to visualize that this province of ours will be overflowing with milk and honey, if the permanent settlement is abolished and I am tempted to share that enjoyment with my friend Mr. Sanyal. Sir, I do not think that he can

accuse Government of not thinking on those lines. I would refer him to the terms of reference of the Bengal Land Revenue Commission. There it is distinctly mentioned that the Commission should examine whether it is practicable and advisable for Government to acquire all superior interests in agricultural lands so as to bring the actual cultivators into the position of tenants holding directly under Government. If so, what would be the probable cost of such acquisition and how long would it be likely to take and what would be the probable consequences on the economic, financial, social and administrative structure of the province. Sir, Government have given full directions in the wide terms of reference to the Land Revenue Commission and I am sure the Land Revenue Commission will examine this question and make their recommendations in due course. Sir, I hope the House will admit that this is a very difficult and complicated problem involving the interests of millions of our countrymen and I am sure even Mr. Sanyal does not expect Government to come to a decision without a careful examination

Sir, the next resolution was moved by Mr. Waliur Rahman. He accused Government of giving landlords the advantage of certificate procedure in spite of the definite assurance by Government on the floor of this House that the certificate procedure would be suspended in Government estates and Court of Wards' estates for the next two years. I do not know how he can make such an accusation. First of all the Garnishee procedure and the procedure under section 99 are used very seldom. And whenever they are used they are used in the interest of the District Boards for the realisation of cesses and certainly it is the unkindest cut of all to hear Mr Waliur Rahman, Chairman of a District Board, accusing Government for abusing the Garnishee procedure in the interests of the landlords. Sir, in this connection I would like to give an assurance to my friend Mr. Ahmed Hossain and some other members of the Coalition Party who also brought this question to my notice that the use of the certificates in connection with the Garnishee procedure in the districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur is under examination by Government and Government hope to come to a decision before long. They are also trying to find out whether the systems have been misused in any way. If they have been misused Government will certainly prevent such misuses in future

The next is the resolution moved by Rai Bahadur J. C. Sen. He spoke on behalf of himself because he has scarcely a supporter in this House, and on behalf of the tenure-holders of the Sunderbans. He claimed that the 99 year lease-holders and the 40 year lease-holders should be given the same rights and privileges. There is a fundamental difference between their rights. The 99 year lease-holders are proprietors whereas the 40 year lease-holders are tenure-holders.

In assessing the rent, Government take into consideration the question of the loss of the tenure-holders and of the tenants due to

floods so that there is no justification for the grievance of the tenure-holders. Sir, only two-thirds of the holdings are assessed; one-third is not taken into account in fixing the assessment.

Moreover, the tenure-holders have also increased the rents of the tenants under them and in some cases the increase is exorbitant. Government have to take into consideration the total assets of the tenure-holder fixing the revenue.

The next amendment was moved by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta. His point was that there were some embankments which were not being properly maintained, but I am sure the people who are responsible for the maintenance of these embankments are either the landlords or the Irrigation Department, the Revenue Department has nothing to do with them. So, I am not in a position to give any definite reply on this point. Mr. Datta's another allegation was that the District Magistrate of Tippera was minimising the effects of the flood in his district. Sir, I entirely repudiate that charge. Mr. Porter is one of the most sympathetic, most considerate and most useful officers in this province. I am sure that if he finds that the tenants require relief, he would be the first person to come up to Government with his recommendation for such help. In fact, Government have already sanctioned over Rs. 3 lakhs for agricultural loan to the district of Tippera. That shows that the Collector was never indifferent to the interests of the agriculturists.

Sir, now comes the resolution moved by Mr. Abdul Jabbar Palwan. The resolution has two parts, viz., that rents should be reduced by 50 per cent. and all arrears of rent should also be reduced by 50 per cent. These are the two proposals he has made. Sir, Government have already appointed a Committee to consider the question of reduction of rent. In fact, Government are committed to the principle of reduction of rent where rent is high and exorbitant; they have also appointed three officers under section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act for collecting statistics, facts and figures, and Government propose to undertake operations under section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in light of the experience gathered in these three districts. These districts are Howrah, Faridpur and Mymensingh.

As regards the reduction of arrears of rent, I beg to refer my honourable friend to the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act. That was an Act placed on the Statute Book by Government for the relief of the agriculturist and the debt there includes arrears of rent. Moreover, if rent is reduced by 50 per cent. without any examination, the tenant who was dutiful and who paid his rent in time would not get any advantage. What is also necessary is that if the rent of the occupancy-*raiyat* is reduced, he should convey the same concession to the under-*raiyat* under him. Therefore, without a careful examination and

without a thorough investigation into the whole problem, it is not possible for Government to commit themselves to one way or the other. But Government are always sympathetic towards the tenants, and where rents are high, Government are prepared to do their best to give them relief.

Now, as regards the question of fisheries, raised by certain members, I would just observe that the rules are strictly followed, and Government never encourage settlement of fisheries with other than fishermen except in very exceptional circumstances. Government have also appointed a Special Officer who is now investigating the whole question of rights in fisheries of landlords and how to bring about an improvement in fisheries. The officer is expected to submit his report in the course of this year, and Government will prepare a comprehensive scheme on the recommendations of this officer.

Now comes the question of the rate of rents in the Dooars. I believe Mr. Upendra Nath Barman has raised this question. According to him, the rate is high and the rate of enhancement was excessively high; but that is not Government's information. Figures show that Jalpaiguri is one of the most lightly assessed districts in this province. The honourable members should remember that only 20 years ago half of Jalpaiguri was a jungle, and was not under cultivation. Government spent large sums of money on communications, more than Rs. 20 lakhs, and leased out lands to *jotedars* and others at a very low rate of rent in order to encourage them to undertake cultivation by reclaiming the lands. The prices of the agricultural produce in that area went up with improved facilities for communication. I may inform the House that the rates of rent in the adjoining districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur are much higher than in Jalpaiguri and that is a conclusive answer to the allegation that Government have enhanced the rents there excessively.

Sir, Mr. Abdul Hamid has made a useful and constructive suggestion, viz., he has asked Government to introduce legislation to prevent alienation of land from the agriculturists to non-agriculturists. In fact, it is one of the biggest problems that this province will have to face in the near future, if it is not already there. Certainly, the abolition of the landlords' transfer fee has given more temptation to the non-agriculturists to invest money in lands. It is against public policy that lands should pass out of the hands of the *bona fide* cultivators to the hands of non-agriculturists. But the problem bristles with difficulties. It is not easy to decide who is an agriculturist and who is not. The Committee that was appointed in 1922 in connection with the Tenancy Bill of 1928 went into this question. Again, in 1927, the Committee of Sir Nalini Ranjan Chatterji went into this question. Sir John Kerr Committee in 1922 and Sir Nalini Ranjan Chatterji Committee in 1927 both came to the same conclusion unanimously that

it was extremely difficult to devise a workable formula for preventing non-agriculturists from acquiring lands. But that is not going to deter Government from taking action. Government will take courage with both hands and do their best. Now the problem is under examination and is engaging the attention of some of our best experts, and I hope to place a draft Bill before the public at the earliest opportunity.

(At this stage, the Hon'ble Minister having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abdul Jabbar Palwan that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division claimed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Hasan Ali Chowdhury, are you serious about it?

Mr. SYED HASAN ALI CHOWDHURY: Yes, Sir I am very serious about it.

The motion was again put and a division taken with the following result:

AYES 46.

Abdul Jabbar Palwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed
Aslmuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Manoranjan.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Narendra.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Malti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Mazumdar, Mr. Birendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Monirruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Moqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mullick, Srijut Asbutosh.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramiruddin Ahmed, Mr.

Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—110.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi. Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Kader, Mr. alis Lal Meah.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Ali, Mr.
Aftab Hosain Joardar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi. Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Aulad Hossain Kyan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Bannerman, Mr. H. C.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Blomenstock, Mr. L. M.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Crosfield, Mr. L. M.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhut Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M. B. E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Homan, Mr. F. T.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra
Miller, Mr. C.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur
Morgan, Mr. G., C. I. E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K. C. I. E.
Naikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rajibuddin Taraidar, Maulvi.
Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Sassoon, Mr. R. M.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C. B. E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, The Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Warren, Mr. P. F. S.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 46 and the Noes. 110, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Amrita Lal Mondal that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Upendra Nath Barman that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that the demand of Rs. 28,96,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 28,96,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" was then put and agreed to

54.—Famine Relief.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief".

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,00,000 under the head "54—Famine Relief" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about apathy of the Government in the matter of not sanctioning sufficient money to the famine-stricken people.

Speaker মহাশয়, এবিষয়ে বিশেষ কিছু বলবার প্রয়োজন আছে বলে আমি মনে করি না। কারণ আমরা সকলেই বুঝতে পেরেছি যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট জনসাধারণের অসুবিধা সম্বন্ধে কতখানি উদাসীন। আমরা যারা গ্রাম থেকে এসেছি দরিদ্রদের প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে, তারা সকলেই জানি যে আমাদের গ্রামের কোন কোন অঞ্চলে দুর্ভিক্ষ লেগেই আছে। কিন্তু সে দুর্ভিক্ষের কথা গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্বীকার কোরবে না কারণ তাহলে টাকা দিয়ে সাহায্য কোরতে হবে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের যতসব স্থানীয় কর্ম্মচারী আছে তাদের শিখিয়ে রাখেন যে লোকে যদি না খেয়ে মোরেও যায় তবু তারা যেন দুর্ভিক্ষ বোলে স্বীকার না করে। এবং এইরূপে দুর্ভিক্ষ দূর করবার জন্য কোন রকমের চেষ্টা আর গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ থেকে করার আবশ্যক হয়ে ওঠেনা। আমরা জানি যে দুর্ভিক্ষ আমাদের দেশে অতিবৃষ্টি, অনাবৃষ্টি বা জলপ্লাবনের ফলে হোয়ে থাকে, অথচ এটা সহজেই রোধ করা যেতে পারে। যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট একটা ডিপার্টমেণ্ট এবিষয়ে একটু বিশেষ চেষ্টা করেন তাহলে এ দুর্ভিক্ষ আসো হতো না। এমন একটী লোকের পরিচালনায় এই department টা রয়েছে যার

না আছে চেতন কাণ্ডজ্ঞান না আছে কোন কর্ম্মশক্তি, না আছে জন-সেবার প্রবৃত্তি বা না আছে জন-সাধারণের অভাব অভিযোগ সম্বন্ধে কিছু মাত্র ধারণা। এরকম একটী অপদার্থ লোকের হাতে এই বিভাগটা থাকার দরুণ দেশের অবস্থা দিন দিন খারাপই হয়ে উঠ্‌ছে। গভর্ণমেণ্টের সেচ্‌ বিভাগের কলঙ্কের কথা আমাদের দেশের সকলেই অবগত আছে। এই বিভাগের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে কৃষি বিভাগ, বাণিজ্যবিভাগ এবং শিল্প বিভাগের ব্যর্থতার ফলে আমাদের দেশের অবস্থা দিন দিন খারাপ হচ্ছে, এবং দেশের মধ্যে দুর্ভিক্ষ লেগেই রয়েছে। গত বর্ষায় প্রবল বৃষ্টি হওয়ার দরুণ শ্রাবণ ভাদ্র মাসের বন্যায় অবশিষ্ট ধান্য বীজ যা ছিলো তাও নষ্ট হওয়ায় কৃষকের কষ্টের অবধি নাই। সেই থেকে তাদের ভিতর দুর্ভিক্ষ আরম্ভ হয়েছে। তারপর রবিশস্য বীজ অভাবে বুনতে পারেনি, গোরুগুলি মড়ক লেগে মোরে যাচ্ছে, এরকম দুর্দ্দশাতেও তাদের উপযুক্ত সাহায্য দেবার কোন উদ্যোগ গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে করা হচ্ছে না।

যে বছর চোলছে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তার পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকা gratuitous relief আর পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ loan বোলে দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু যে টাকা sanction কোরেছেন তাতে সারা দেশের অভাবগ্রস্ত লোকের দুর্দ্দশারি কিছুই মোচন হয় নাই। তার উপর অনেক জমি পতিত রয়েছে, লোকে চাষ বাস কোরতে পারছে না, বীজ নাই, চাষের গরু নাই কি কোরে কি বুনবে? কাজেই দেখা যাচ্ছে দুর্ভিক্ষ ভাদ্র মাস পর্য্যন্ত চোলবে। অথচ মাত্র দু'লক্ষ টাকা agricultured loan বাবদ এই বাজেটে যে ধরা হয়েছে তা দ্বারা দেশশুদ্ধ লোকের কতটুকু অভাব মোচন হবে? কাজেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে দেশের লোকের দুর্দ্দশার প্রতি উদাসীন সে আমরা স্পষ্টই দেখতে পাচ্ছি। এই ঔদাসীন্য এতকাল পর্য্যন্ত বিদেশী গভর্ণমেণ্টের বুরোক্রাটিক সদস্যরা আমাদের দেশবাসীদের প্রতি যে দেখিয়েছেন তাতে আমরা কিছু আশ্চর্য্য বোধ করি নাই, তারা আমাদের দেশে এসেছে শোষণ আর শাসনের জন্য। তারা আমাদের দেশের লোককে পেটে-ভাতে মেরে যদি আমাদের জীবনকে দুর্ব্বহ কোরে রাখতে পারে তাহলে তার একটা অর্থ আছে। যে কাজ আধুনিক অস্ত্র শস্ত্র মেসিন গান প্রভৃতি দ্বারা না করা যায় দেশের লোককে ভাতে মেরে তারা যদি সেই কাজটা কোরে নেয় তার অর্থ বোঝা যায়। কিন্তু যেখানে দেশবাসী জনসাধারণের নিজেদের প্রতিনিধি দ্বারা গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিচালিত হচ্ছে, সেখানেই জনসাধারণ যদি আনাহারে মোরে যায়, রোগে, দুঃখে ও দুর্দ্দশায় যদি তাদের সর্ব্বস্বহীন হোতে হয় এবং প্রতিদিনকার অভাবের তাড়নায় তাদের জীবনদীপ নিবু নিবু হোতে হোতে শেষ কালে যদি নিবেই যায় তাহলে দেশের লোকের হাতে শাসন ভার থাকার স্বার্থকতা কোথায়? গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই criminal indifference আর অযোগ্যতার বিষয় দেশবাসীর নিকট আর অবিদিত নাই। এই indifference এর ফলস্বরূপ আমরা দেখতে পাই কি? দেখতে পাই—দেশের লোক যদি দুর্ভিক্ষের তাড়নায় সাহায্যের জন্য সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের কাছে যায়, সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীরা নিজেদের সুখে গর্ব্বে, গৌরবে এবং আনন্দে মত্ত থেকে সাহায্য প্রার্থীদের কাতর ধ্বনিতে সহানুভূতি দেখাবার সময় পর্য্যন্ত পান না। যদি কোন লোক নিতান্ত অভাবের তাড়নায় তাদের কাছে দুঃখের কথা বোলতে ওঠে তাকে ধাড়ে ধোরে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়। এটা নিত্য ঘটনা। তা ছাড়া—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I rise to oppose this motion and my brief reply is this that though the budget provision for the current year was only Rs. 2 lakhs, Government had to spend over Rs. 63,34,000 on famine relief including of course the agricultural loan. If necessary there will be no dearth of money for Government to help the people in their distress.

The motion of Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas that the demand of Rs. 2,00,000 under the head "54—Famine Relief" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine Relief" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 11-30 a.m. on Saturday, the 11th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 11th March, 1939, at 11-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 190 members.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 51,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38.—Medical."

The total provision for expenditure under this head is Rs. 58,80,000 of which Rs. 51,30,000 is voted and the balance, namely, Rs. 7,50,000 is charged on provincial revenues. A statement of expenditure for the preceding three years will, I believe, be helpful to the House. In 1936-37 the total expenditure was Rs. 49,44,000; in 1937-38 the expenditure rose to Rs. 52,87,000. According to revised estimates for the current year we expect to spend Rs. 55,97,000. The budget for 1939-40 makes a total provision of Rs. 58,80,000 as already stated. The details of the principal increases have been explained at page 104 of the Red Book which I have no doubt every member of the House has studied. I do not consider it necessary to go into the particulars at this stage, although I shall have occasion to make reference to the more important items as I proceed.

I owe it to the House, Sir, to offer some remarks as regards the policy underlying this budget. I trust it will be realised that substantial progress can only be made when policies and programmes have been definitely settled which must take time specially as large financial commitments are necessarily involved. It may be claimed that the present Ministry have made real attempts to pursue a definite line of advance in the improvement and extension of medical relief in the province.

As by far the majority the honourable members of this Assembly represent rural areas I would very briefly refer to rural medical relief in the first instance. The State grant under the scheme of subsidies towards thana and village dispensaries stands in the current year's budget at Rs. 1,30,000. I may inform the House that the necessary additional amount has been found in order that all rural dispensaries recommended as qualified for the grant may receive the subsidy. This grant has proved very useful in aiding these rural institutions and in encouraging their establishments. The provision has been increased to Rs. 1,50,000 in this budget, and I can assure the House that any further amount that may be necessary with a view to meeting the claims of all dispensaries which comply with the simple conditions attached to the grant will also be found. Sir, the problem of providing a satisfactory system of medical relief for rural areas is a most important and at the same time a most difficult task. I shall have an opportunity, while dealing with the Public Health budget, of referring to a comprehensive scheme of rural public health organisation which has been under the anxious consideration of this Government for some time past. Those members of the House who happen to be Chairmen of District Boards are well aware of this, as only recently all Chairmen of the District Boards were invited to advise on the scheme and Government received very valuable suggestions from them. This scheme, Sir, is being framed with the object of establishing a rural dispensary as a centre of medical and public health activities for a moderate and well defined area with a medical officer trained in public health, in charge, thus co-ordinating the preventive and the curative activities of the two departments. Such a scheme would naturally require time to be put into shape. It is proposed to initiate this scheme partially in the ensuing year in selected areas on an experimental basis and when it is fully given effect to, after it has been put into complete shape, will provide a network of rural treatment centres combining preventive work all over the province, involving on Government a recurring outlay of several lakhs of rupees. I may also inform the House that several District Boards have already expressed their willingness to participate in the scheme and fully co-operate with Government.

As the House is aware the condition of the Sadar hospitals with few exceptions is generally unsatisfactory. These hospitals which serve rural as well as municipal areas, specially in cases of serious ailments are maintained by local bodies with inelastic resources. A survey of the needs, recurring and non-recurring of the Sadar hospitals in respect of buildings, staff, equipment and nursing arrangements, was made. A detailed scheme for improvement of Sadar hospitals was drawn up providing for some relief to the local bodies and for the improvement of the standard of medical relief at present available.

The scheme has not yet been examined and sanctioned in its entirety, but a provision was made in the current year for a grant of Rs. 3,00,000 with a view to assisting the local authorities in making improvements in their hospitals. As the hospital authorities could not get the scheme ready in time, only a part of this amount could be spent during the current year and the balance has been repeated in this budget. Other proposals for partial relief to the local bodies and improvement of the standards of these hospitals are under examination.

Hospitals in this province stand badly in need of provision for nursing which is an essential part of hospital treatment. There is no nursing in the mufassil hospitals with very few exceptions, and in the State hospitals in Calcutta also with one exception the nursing is inadequate. It is specially unsatisfactory in the Campbell Hospital which is the largest pauper hospital in the province.

A scheme of improvement in the nursing in the Campbell Hospital and the establishment of a large training centre for Indian nurses has been framed. Government are committed to this scheme having provided a sum of Rs. 2,86,000 in the current year's budget for the necessary buildings and equipments with the nurses' quarters. As the preparation of plans and estimates took time, only a small portion of the amount is likely to be spent during this year and provision has been made for the balance in the next year's budget. It is expected that this nursing scheme will be introduced during the year 1939-40. Necessary provision has also been made in the budget for improved nursing in the Dacca Mitford Hospital which is the most important State hospital outside Calcutta. A grant has also been provided for improvement of nursing in the Victoria Hospital at Darjeeling, especially as this is a very suitable centre for training of nurses.

The expenditure on the State hospitals in Calcutta, the two most important of which are part and parcel of central teaching institutions, generally come in for criticism as involving neglect of the rural areas. I think honourable members are aware that these hospitals afford specialised treatment not only to the inhabitants of Calcutta but also to people hailing from all parts of the province. I may point out in this connection that the medical establishment and maintenance of mufassil dispensaries and grants to institutions outside Calcutta proper, account for a sum of Rs. 16,00,000 in the budget. The Eden Hospital extension block of the Medical College Hospitals was built several years back but has been lying vacant for reasons of financial stringency in spite of the overwhelming need for more accommodation for maternity cases. Twelve beds were opened on a paying basis in 1938-39: although there is no definite provision in the budget for the opening of the remaining beds on the same basis, I can assure the House that steps will be taken to open the remaining beds, thus relieving to a certain extent this standing need.

A capital grant has been provided for the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, the well reputed maternity hospital in Calcutta founded in memory of the late Mr. C. R. Das. This hospital has been built up entirely by public efforts and it serves all creeds and classes not only in Calcutta but outside Calcutta as well.

Diseases of the eye in the rural areas have attained alarming proportions, especially since the advent of the epidemic dropsy. The Association for the Prevention of Blindness has been doing excellent work in educative propaganda and in maintaining travelling eye dispensaries in the mufassil. These travelling eye dispensaries are very greatly appreciated by the public in the rural areas as many of the honourable members are probably aware. In order to enable the association to run a few additional travelling eye dispensaries in the province for a term of years a grant of Rs. 15,000 has been provided.

Another outstanding feature of the budget to which I would like to refer is the scheme of improvement of teaching in the State Medical Schools in Bengal. Some of these schools have been threatened with disaffiliation by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration and the arrangement for teaching under which one teacher had to teach several incompatible subjects required reform. Accordingly, a provision has been made in this budget of Rs. 15,000 involving an ultimate recurring expenditure of about Rs. 40,000 in future. Provision has also been made for the improvement of the building and equipment of the Lytton Medical School, Mymensingh, at the ultimate cost of Rs. 50,000. The school would otherwise have been disaffiliated.

Sir, as there are two demands for me to complete to-day, I will not take any further time. I would humbly point out to the House that however one might like to do so, reforms in Medical and Public Health organisations cannot be effected without considerable time and thinking, and I trust that the House will assist the Government in carving a line of action leading to progress within the compass of our financial limits.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the sum of Rs. 51,30,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I do this generally, within the short space of time at my disposal, to raise a discussion about the administration of the Medical Department as a whole, the inadequacy of the grant, the deterioration in the quality of teaching in the Calcutta Medical College and in the Campbell Medical School, and specially about the failure of Government to utilise fully the current year's grants for the improvement of Sadar hospitals.

I realise, Sir, that so far as the present incumbent in office is concerned, the Hon'ble the Minister may have genuine difficulties in dealing with all the problems raised by me, and with all humility I would only draw his attention to these problems for whatever they are worth. If he is really anxious to bring about an improvement in the administration, he might consider these points at the proper time.

The first and the foremost problem before us, as the Hon'ble Minister has himself recognised, is the problem of improving medical facilities in rural areas. It is recognised in all quarters that during past years the facilities granted in the mufassil have been inadequate, and even now they continue to be so. I understand that even in some of the Sadar hospitals old instruments and splints are used in the surgical departments and even good surgeons there find it difficult to operate upon patients. Petty things like catguts are wanting when they have to open up wounds, and in some cases, I understand, a surgeon had to buy these catguts from the market out of his own pocket. The inadequacy of grants to Sadar hospitals was recognised and money was provided in the last year's budget, but unfortunately for some reason which is not known to us, this sum could not be properly utilised. I submit that that has been one of the many drawbacks of the department which call for serious attention, and the time has come when the whole scheme has got to be re-examined. So far as villages are concerned, it is well-known that the District Board hospitals are very ill-equipped. Not only are they very small in number to cope with the heavy task of rural medical relief, but also the very few that are in existence are equipped very poorly indeed. In view of this, in some of the rural districts, for example, in Birbhum, during the last famine periods, some officials had evolved schemes of expanding rural medical relief by a system of permitting one medical officer in charge of every Union Board being maintained on a co-operative basis. I submit that a practical scheme along that line may be examined.

Coming, Sir, now to the problems of medical arrangements in this city, which after all is the epitome of medical education in the East, I find that so far as the Medical College is concerned there has been a continued deterioration in the teaching efficiency of that college as well as in the Campbell Medical School. The inadequacy of medical facilities in this city as well as in the mufassil must to a very large extent depend upon proper or improper arrangements of medical teaching in the Calcutta Medical College and schools. And that is why I beg leave to draw the particular attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the present arrangement. I find that there has been continued deterioration in the standard of teaching as well as in the standard of hospital arrangements, and inadequate facilities are provided for Bengalis in the matter of research, particulary in the newly developed School of Tropical Medicine and the All-India Institute of Hygiene.

The root cause of this deterioration appears to me to lie in the new policy permitted by Government—the policy of not giving adequate consideration to merit and efficiency alone as the standard for selection of staff in these institutions. I submit, Sir, that so far as human life and death are concerned, we must eschew all other considerations than considerations of pure efficiency in the matter of the choice of staff. Unfortunately, for the last two years we are noticing a different policy being introduced. I have no quarrel with any section of the people who would like proper opportunities to be given to particular communities on grounds of communal or other considerations in places where a probable minimum qualification would do. But in matters of life and death where we all seek maximum qualification, the question of minimum qualification should not guide us. As a matter of fact, I would like the honourable members of the Coalition Party to say when they themselves fall ill, would they depend upon the minimum qualification of the doctors or would seek the best medical advice possible for themselves and for their children? I want to draw your attention to certain glaring examples of inefficiency due to adoption of a standard of qualification other than efficiency in the matter of selection of the Medical College staff. The first and foremost example that comes to my mind is the appointment of the new Resident Physician. A Resident Physician of the Medical College has got very responsible duties to perform and hitherto in order to attain the position of a Resident Physician one had to pass the stages of Assistant House Physician, House Physician and Registrar. Thus one could aspire to get the position of a Resident Physician after obtaining a considerable amount of hospital knowledge and clinical training.

Unfortunately all this has been done away with, and a few months back a Muhammadan officer was appointed. He has not proved so far as successful or near about as successful as the previous incumbent Dr. Bhattacharyya.

Then comes the question of another very important post, viz., the Resident Surgeon. In that post another Muhammadan has been brought, viz., Dr.——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I would request you not to mention names.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir, I will not mention names.

This Resident Surgeon has two very interesting cases to his credit. When a patient complained that he was suffering from pain in the abdomen, he thought that there was something wrong in the abdomen and he ripped open the abdomen of the patient but found nothing

wrong there. After the patient expired the pathological examination proved that the patient was suffering from pneumonia. That is the second unfortunate selection.

The third selection is the selection of a Muhammadan Emergency Officer. The Emergency Section had always two officers, but now one more officer has been added, out of which two have been given over to junior men because they probably happened to belong to a particular community——

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I would appeal to the Deputy Leader of the Congress Group to excommunicate Dr. Sanyal as he is communal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There has been the appointment of another from the post of a Demonstrator who was given first a lift to the post of Assistant Professor without having any previous hospital experience. He has been then appointed in the course of a few months of this appointment, as a Surgeon in the Campbell Medical School

There has also been the appointment of another gentleman as a Bio-chemist although having no special training in Biochemistry or Physiology, instead of one who is a gold medalist, and who has been appointed in the Department of Physiology where clinical knowledge is essential.

There has also been the appointment of a junior probationer, recruited in 1935, as a Senior Demonstrator in the Pathological Department, after transferring a very reputed man who was holding that post. Similarly, another temporary junior assistant surgeon having no clinical knowledge has been appointed as Senior Demonstrator of Practical Pharmacy. There is also the case of one gentleman who had been serving in the Wakf Office, and who has been appointed as Secretary of the Medical College, by suddenly transferring the last incumbent or rather by asking him to retire before his time was due. There have also been appointments earmarked for a particular community only as Anæsthetist and Radiologist in the Casualty Department of the Medical College Hospitals. We cannot understand how the post of specialists, whose duty it is to give a special type of service, can be earmarked for appointment from a particular community.

Similarly, one doctor has been brought down from Jalpaiguri to hold the post of Teacher of Medicine in the Campbell Medical School, superseding the claims of Dr. Aich—a very prominent and much more experienced and qualified medical man who has considerable reputation in this city as a successful medical expert. Again, an additional Teacher in Surgery and another junior surgeon have been appointed

in the Campbell Medical School, who have proved themselves thoroughly worthless. They have been brought from different parts of the country.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: On a point of information, Sir. May I inquire if Dr. Sanyal is making out a list of Muhammadan officers who have been appointed in the Medical College ?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir. In reply to my friend I may say that I have in my list the names of both Hindu as well as Muhammadan officers. I will presently mention the names of two Hindu officers. One is Dr.——

(Cries of "Only two", "Only two" from Coalition members.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, please do not mention any names.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But as my friend wants me to mention the names——

Mr. SPEAKER: As I have already requested you, Dr. Sanyal, please do not mention any names, because it is not fair that gentlemen should be named here in their absence.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, I have in my list the names of both Hindu and Muhammadan officers—irrespective of community. I am only examining the efficiency of the officers, and in that list unfortunately, as it is drawn up to-day, the names of Muhammadan members predominate, and that is also a factor that has got to be examined by my friends. (Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: That is all story!)

The position, so far as teaching in the Medical College is concerned, is such that there is no enthusiasm either of the students or of the teaching staff. A certain gentleman who holds the post of Director of the Tropical School of Medicine has been asked to hold simultaneously the post of Professor of Pharmacology in the Medical College. That gentleman who happens to be a Punjabi hardly ever attends his classes. He generally sends his assistant by virtue of what authority I do not know, and that assistant also on many occasions fails to come. He has to deliver about 40 or 50 lectures in a year, but I submit that he has never fulfilled his quota of lectures. In fact, he has not delivered more than a dozen lectures per year.

There have also been some misfits. There have been very good medical men who are very popular as teachers, very good people in their own way, but they have been brought from another department

where they were successful and popular, to teach in subjects in which they were not at the time of their appointment properly qualified, and this had to be done in order to make some adjustment in the staff elsewhere. I submit, Sir, that this kind of constant changes in putting people who are not properly fit for particular posts has led to a very unhealthy atmosphere in the entire medical institution and teaching of Medicine in Calcutta.

Coming now to the question of nursing and handling of the hospital patients, I submit that through numerous questions raised in this House it has been eminently made clear that the standard of attention has deteriorated of late. I will leave it at that.

Coming next to the Tropical School of Medicine, I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge and his colleagues to one glaring instance of a thorough scandal that is going on at that place. There is a Punjabi gentleman who has been appointed Director. He has been successfully trying to evade the appointment of suitable Bengalis, not to speak of Hindus but even Muhammadans, in any post of responsibility in the School and in the departments under his influence. I may point out, Sir, that some of these Bengalis have made name and fame by publishing very valuable contributions in the medical journals. He has invariably been getting Punjabis from different parts of the country, and some of these Punjabis have been brought down to fill posts like demonstrators and laboratory assistants, for which, as the House is well aware, Bengal has no dearth of qualified men. He has also on one or two occasions got bearers—ordinary hospital bearers—appointed from amongst Punjabis. The worst part of it is that even the hospital beds are very largely filled up by Punjabis during certain periods and the admissions have been unduly reserved by the Director. Certainly, in the city of Calcutta, there is no dearth of Bengali patients who can submit to any research in the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine.

There are complaints in other directions also which can be multiplied, but I will leave those for the present.

I will now appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to see that this state of affairs is changed because we have now got a responsible Minister. I would respectfully request him, at the same time while we look forward to the removal of these grievances, to see to the establishment of new directions of extending medical relief. There is at present a great need of a baby clinic in Calcutta. Special children's hospitals have been the crying need in the city for a long time. No provision has been made in this direction so far.

I submit, Sir, that all these would require a thorough and sifting enquiry and an enquiry by experts—not by members of this House who may not always be in the same sense experts as these special lines

demand, and I hope that the enquiry I demand will keep in view a bold policy of reform irrespective of other considerations than the consideration of merit and efficiency.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. JATINDRA NATH BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I desire to confine my remarks to one particular sphere only of the activities of the Medical Department of Government. Sir, there is no difference of opinion amongst the different sections of this House that Bengal is an unhealthy province, nor is there any difference of opinion on the point that steps should be taken as early as possible to improve the state of things here so far as Public Health is concerned.

Sir, amongst the various methods to be adopted for improving the public health of this province one of the most important is to place facilities close to the homes of the people in the rural areas—I mean facilities as regards the assistance to be obtained from medical men and facilities as regards centres of treatment near at hand.

Sir, the Ayurvedic system of medicine has existed in this country ever since the dawn of history. It has done immense good to the common people for centuries. The effectiveness and value of the system have now been recognized by those that practise Western systems of medicine. A large number of medicines from the Ayurvedic pharmacopoea has now been incorporated in the pharmacopoea of the Western systems.

Sir, the Government of this province have recognised the Ayurvedic system of medicine. The fact should be kept in view that there is in almost every village a *kaviraj*, whose treatment is available to the villagers at a very small cost It is therefore necessary to improve the system of training and to offer facilities to the people to have centres of treament in their midst. These Ayurvedic dispensaries, if established or encouraged by grants, will not be as expensive as dispensaries of the other systems. The Government of Bengal have established a Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine, but when the Faculty was established about 2 years ago, the Government of Bengal stated at that time that it would not take any financial responsibility just then about the work of the Faculty. But after the establishment of the Faculty, the work has grown enormously. The Faculty started with what help it could get from contributions from the public and from registration fees of Ayurvedic physicians. The work consists not only in regularising the treatment but also in the imparting of education in that system according to the best and most approved methods. For that purpose it is necessary that there should be proper educational institutions where instruction in Ayurvedic treatment could be given. In

Calcutta there are some Ayurvedic Colleges with hospitals of their own. But in the interior there is still a large number of *tols* and small schools scattered all over the province where training in the system of Ayurveda is imparted. It is necessary that Government should come forward with help to the Ayurvedic Faculty to enable it to have a sufficient number of qualified Inspectors to find out if all those practitioners, who claim to be placed on the register of recognised practitioners, are men with real training. They have also to arrange for inspection of various training centres and schools to find out as to whether a really efficient training is being imparted in those institutions. For that purpose also large expenditure is necessary. It is therefore time that the Government should come forward with help. Some of the other Provincial Governments have already started actively helping the teaching of Eastern systems of medicine. There is not much difference between treatments according to the Eastern system and according to the Western system. Eastern systems have this advantage that most of the medicines are made from plants and various other substances which are available close at hand, so that we can have fresh medicines immediately for the treatment of diseases. I would impress upon Government the necessity of helping the State Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine so that it may function in the way that Government intended that it should function; and it should be enabled to carry out these various duties so that treatment under the Ayurvedic system and also training in Ayurveda may be really efficient. It is not necessary that there should be a large grant now. The Faculty has existed now only for two years. It has already registered 1,500 practitioners from all over Bengal. Applications are being received almost every day from various institutions. Inspection of them is naturally taking some time. The Faculty has laid down courses of study for the various examinations in the different grades of the profession, namely, preliminary, intermediate and final, so that a high standard may at the very commencement be laid down and the quality of teaching may not deteriorate. I would urge upon the Government to see that the work of the Faculty does not suffer for want of funds.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 51,30,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government's failure to provide medical relief to rural Bengal by establishing free dispensaries in each Union Board.

This is the second time that we are raising our voice of protest against the inefficiency of Government for not providing adequate medical relief in the mufassil. We know that Union Boards have been established in Bengal and most of the Union Boards are at least

6 miles in length and 2 miles in breadth; that is, on an average, most of the Union Boards cover an area of at least 12 square miles and are inhabited by a large number of population. It is a matter of great regret that even 5 per cent. of the Union Boards in Bengal do not get adequate medical relief for want of dispensaries and hospitals. Private practitioners in villages are very rare and even when there are practitioners available, their stock of medicine is very small, so it is indispensably necessary for Government to establish dispensaries, and, where possible, even hospitals for the attendance of patients in the mufassil.

It is a matter of great regret also that primary education and secondary education in these areas have not spread very much, and due to ignorance and ill-health, the benefit of civilisation could not be carried to those parts of the country. That is why we are always trying to impress on the Government that it is urgently necessary to establish hospitals and dispensaries in the villages, but unfortunately up to this time Government have always complained that they have no money, that they have no trained medical officers for establishing hospitals. I submit that this sort of thing cannot go on for ever. It is a well-known fact that Government must exist for people and people should not exist for Government. If Government like to continue and if they like to have their existence felt in the countryside, it is a prime necessity that they should try first of all to supply medical relief to the poor people in the mufassil. In district towns and large metropolitan cities like Calcutta, the question is quite different. There the people are educated, medical practitioners are available in large number and medicines and other appliances are also available, but in mufassil a man cannot get an adequate supply even of quinine, not to speak of other rare medicines. Therefore, I submit that it is time that Government should give their attention to this important subject; if they do not do that, I think, they have no right to exist and they have no right to carry on Government in Bengal. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: May I move, Mr. Speaker, the motions standing in the name of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 51,30,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to provide help to the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine and the absence of any schemes for placing the instruction on the above systems on a sound financial basis.

I beg also to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 51,30,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the recognition of Ayurvedic system of medicine and Government grant to Ayurvedic hospitals and dispensaries.

The third motion that I beg to move is that the demand for a sum of Rs. 51,30,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the indifference of Government towards Ayurvedic treatment.

After what Mr. J. N. Basu has said I need not make any speech but still I owe it to my friend to make a few remarks when moving these motions. That the outlook of the old bureaucratic Government is still continuing to dominate the administration of our popular Ministry is proved by the fact that they have no sympathy for the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of treatment. It is admitted even by eminent Allopathic and Homeopathic physicians that the indigenous method of treatment is best suited to the people of this country. I know of many eminent Allopathic physicians—doctors and surgeons—who prefer Ayurvedic to Allopathic medicine for their personal treatment and there are many physicians who, I know, prescribe Ayurvedic medicines in the case of certain diseases such as consumption, insanity, epilepsy, hysteria, etc. The fact that there are many eminent Ayurvedic and Unani physicians in Calcutta who possess no less reputation than the most eminent Allopathic and Homeopathic doctors proves the efficacy of the indigenous method of treatment. I ask the Hon'ble Ministers of the Cabinet and especially the Hon'ble Minister for Medical and Public Health whether they themselves have got any faith in the Ayurvedic method of treatment. I would also ask the honourable members of the House who are sitting on the opposite side whether they too have got any faith in the Ayurvedic and Unani methods of treatment. I believe nobody will be able to deny the efficacy of such treatment. If that is so, may I now ask that all the Indian members of this House will put pressure upon the Government to show active sympathy towards this sort of treatment? I know that the Government sanctioned an Ayurvedic faculty, but the work of this faculty is not being carried on successfully for want of sufficient money.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this your speech or is it Mr. Kumar's?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: It is my speech and also of Mr. Kumar.

Without taking much more time of this House I demand that Government should show more sympathy towards this sort of indigenous treatment and provide sufficient funds in a supplementary budget

to finance this faculty and also to start some village Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries. Sir, in our boyhood we found that kabirajas and hekims were the only physicians who treated all kinds of diseases in the villages, but these physicians are no longer finding their occupation as a dependable means of livelihood, because the public faith in them has been shaken by the glamour of the Allopathic treatment. While, however, eminent Ayurvedic and Unani physicians are for many years past trying their level best to restore their lost reputation of this indigenous method of treatment, Government ought to have come forward with sufficient money to support them. However, it is not yet too late and we hope the honourable members sitting on the opposite will support me in my demand for sufficient money for the expansion and improvement of these indigenous methods of treatment.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: I beg to move that the sum of Rs. 51,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the desirability of establishing dispensaries one in each union throughout the country.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, বাংলার পল্লী অঞ্চলে চিকিৎসার কোন প্রকারের ব্যবস্থা না থাকায় এবং পল্লী বাংলার অগণিত জনসাধারণ চিকিৎসার অভাবে অকালে মৃত্যু মুখে পতিত হওয়ায় তাহাদের বিনা পয়সায় চিকিৎসার জন্য বাংলার প্রতি ইউনিয়নে একটী করিয়া ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপন করিবার জন্য আমি এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিলাম। আমার প্রস্তাবের পক্ষে ভোট দিলে মন্ত্রীগণকে পদচ্যুত হইতে হইবে না। কাজেই আমি মনে করি যে সকলেই আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণে সম্মতি দিবেন।

বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের বাজেটে চিকিৎসা বিভাগের জন্য মোট ৫৮,৮০,০০০ টাকা খরচ বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। উক্ত টাকার মধ্যে কলিকাতাবাসীর চিকিৎসার জন্য পনর লক্ষ এবং মফঃস্বলের লোকের চিকিৎসার জন্য পার্ব্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম সহ তিন লক্ষ টাকা খরচ ধার্য্য করা হইয়াছে। বাংলার মোট সংখ্যা ৫০,১১৪,০০২। তন্মধ্যে ৪৬,৪২৯,৬৭২ জন লোক গ্রামে বাস করে এবং ৩,৬৮৪,৩৩০ লোক সহরে বাস করে। ইহাদের মধ্যে আগন্তুক এবং স্থায়ী অধিবাসীসহ কলিকাতার লোক সংখ্যা ১৪ লক্ষ। কলিকাতার বাহিরের লোকের জন্য কেন এত নগন্য সংখ্যক টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইল তাহা ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয় আশা করি উত্তর দিবেন। আমি কলিকাতার জন্য অধিক টাকা খরচ করার বিরোধী নহি। আমি জানি যে কলিকাতা মহানগরীতে চিকিৎসার অনেক সুবন্দোবস্ত আছে। অনেক বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে প্রত্যহ লক্ষ লক্ষ লোককে বিনা পয়সায় ঔষধ দেওয়া হয়। কিন্তু মফঃস্বলে এ সুবিধা নাই। সেখানে ডাক্তারের অত্যন্ত অভাব। ২০।২৫ মাইলের মধ্যেও একজন ভাল ডাক্তার পাওয়া যায় না। যাহারা চিকিৎসা করাইতে সক্ষম তাহারাও চিকিৎসকের অভাবে বিনা চিকিৎসায় মারা যায়। মফঃস্বলের শতকরা ৯৯ জন লোকই অত্যন্ত দরিদ্র। তাহারা দিনে, দুদিনেও একবেলা পেট ভরিয়া ভাত খাইতে পায় না। যদিও কোন স্থানে চিকিৎসক পাওয়া যায় তথাপি টাকা পয়সার অভাবে চিকিৎসা করাইতে পারে না, প্রত্যহ হাজার হাজার লোক বিনা চিকিৎসায় ও ঔষধের অভাবে মারা যাইতেছে। এই সমস্ত বিষয় ভাবিলে সকলেই অনুভব করিতে পারিবেন যে, আমার প্রস্তাবের গুরুত্ব কত বেশী।

১৯০৬ ইং সনের পাবলিক হেলথ বিভাগের রিপোর্টে আমরা দেখিতে পাই যে, ঐ সনে বাংলাদেশে ১,২২২,৭২৪ জন লোক মারা গিয়াছিল। কোন কোন জিলায় জন্ম হইতে মৃত্যুর সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। ১৯০৮-০৯ ইং সনে ত্রিপুরা জিলায় কলেরা, বসন্ত, কালাজ্বর ও ম্যালেরিয়ায় অনেক লোক

মারা গিয়াছেন এমন গ্রাম ছিল না যেখানে কলেরার প্রাদুর্ভাব হয় নাই। সরকারী ডাক্তারগণ ঔষধের অভাবে চিকিৎসা করিতে পারে নাই। গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ ঔষধ সরবরাহ করা হয় নাই। আমি নিজে এ সম্বন্ধে ডারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে জানাইয়াছি এবং খবরের কাগজে বিবৃতি দিয়াছি। নওয়াবজাদা নাসিরউল্লাহ, এম, এল্, এর কনষ্টিটিউয়েন্সি ত্রিপুরা জিলার নবীনগর থানার কাইতলা ইউনিয়নের ১৭৫ খানার কোনাপুর নামক একটী মৌজায় এই বছর কলেরায় ২০০ শতেরও অধিক লোক মারা গিয়াছে। এই গ্রামের সমস্ত অধিবাসীই মোছলমান। ঢাকার নবাব পরিবারকে মুসলেম হিতৈষণার নামে অনেক বড় বড় কথা বলিতে শুনা যায়। ডারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয় ও নাসিরউল্লা সাহেব ইহার কি উত্তর দেন তাহা শুনিবার জন্য আমরা উদগ্রীব হইয়া রহিলাম।

চিকিৎসা বিভাগের ব্যয় বরাদ্দের মধ্যে কর্ম্মচারীর বেতনে শতকরা ৫০৲ কলিকাতার জন্য শতকরা ৪০৲ মফস্বল সহরের জন্য শতকরা ৮৲ এবং মফস্বলের থানার জন্য শতকরা ২৲ ব্যয় করার ব্যবস্থা করিয়া এই বাজেট প্রনয়ণ করা হইয়াছে। বাংলার মফঃস্বলে ১,৪০০ এবং কলিকাতায় ৪৭টী হাসপাতাল আছে। কলিকাতার হাসপাতালের জন্য ২০½ লক্ষ টাকা এবং মফস্বলের হাসপাতালের জন্য ৪½ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। কলিকাতার জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে তাহার অধিকাংশ টাকা ইউরোপীয়ান এবং এংলো-ইণ্ডিয়ানদের চিকিৎসার জন্য খরচ করা হইবে। চিকিৎসার ব্যাপারে এইরূপ তারতম্য কেন করা হইল তাহা দেশবাসী মন্ত্রীগণকে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতেছেন।

বাংলার ৫ কোটী লোকের জন্য এই টাকা অত্যন্ত অপ্রচুর। বাংলা দেশে ৪,৮৯০টী ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড আছে। প্রতি ইউনিয়নে পড়ে ২০।২১ টী করিয়া গ্রাম আছে। এই সমস্ত গ্রামের লোককে বাঁচাইয়া রাখিতে হইলে অন্ততঃ প্রতি ইউনিয়নের একটি করিয়া সরকারী হাসপাতাল থাকা অত্যন্ত আবশ্যক। কাজেই আমি বলি যে মন্ত্রীগণ আমার এই প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিয়া দেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ দরিদ্র কৃষক শ্রমিককে বাঁচাইয়া রাখুন। যদি মন্ত্রীগণ আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণে অক্ষম হন তবে মন্ত্রীর গদী ছাড়িয়া শীঘ্র চলিয়া আসুন। যাহারা দেশের কাজ করিতে পারিবে তাহারা মন্ত্রীত্ব করিবে।

শাসন ব্যয় কমাইলে, সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীর বেতন হ্রাস করিলে, সরকারী ব্যয়ে লীগের ও হিন্দু মহাসভার প্রচার বন্ধ করিলে বিভিন্ন কমিটি ও কমিশনের নামে দলের মেম্বার ও বড় লোককে টাকা দেওয়া বন্ধ করিলে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা বাঁচিয়া যাইবে। কাজেই আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিলে তহবিলে টাকার অভাব হইবে না। এখন আমি আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিতে সকলকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

Maulvi Md. HASANUZZAMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, সোনার বাংলার আকাশ বাতাস এক দিকে যেমন অভাব অভিযোগে হাহাকার করিতেছে অপর দিকে উপযুক্ত চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থার অভাবে হাজার হাজার লোক শৃগাল কুকুরের ন্যায় অকালে মরিতেছে।

আজ গরীব পল্লীবাসী কৃষকের ঘরে ভাত নাই, পিঠে বস্ত্র নাই, চেহারায় লাবণ্য নাই। আছে বলিতে তাদের কিছুই নাই। হুজন মহাজনের দেনার দায়ে এক প্রকার ঘর বাড়ী ছাড়া। অত্যাচারী জমিদারের অত্যাচারেও তাহাদের নানা ভাবের জুলুমের স্থায়া আজ কৃষকজুল নিঃস্বহারা। এমন কি অনেক পরিবারের বাস্তব ভিটি পর্য্যন্ত নাই। ছেলে মেয়ে নিয়া কত কষ্টে জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করিতেছে। শত শত পরিবার নানা ভাবের ব্যাধীতে উপযুক্ত চিকিৎসার অভাবে মৃত্যুর গ্রাসে পতিত হইয়া ধ্বংশ হইয়া গিয়াছে ও হইতেছে। গরীব পিতা মাতা রোগাক্রান্ত ছেলে মেয়ে নিয়ে অশ্রুজলে বুক ভাসাইতেছে। এক দিকে যেমন পথ্যের ব্যবস্থা নাই অপর দিকে চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা নাই। এক কোটা ঔষধ সেবন করাইয়া মনকে প্রবোধ দিতে পর্য্যন্ত অপারগ। হায়! পল্লীবাসীর এই দুঃখ ও দুর্দ্দশা যাহারা স্বচক্ষে দেখেন নাই তারা অনেকেই ইহা অনুমানই করিতে পারিবেন না।

সর্ব্বহারা পল্লীবাসীর জন্য গবর্ণমেণ্ট আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন ভাল চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা করে নাই। সহরে বন্দরে দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপন করিয়াছে সত্য কিন্তু এই সমস্ত ডাক্তারখানা স্থায়া দরিদ্র পল্লী

বাসীর কোন উপকারই হইতেছে না। আশা ছিল বর্ত্তমান গবর্ণমেণ্ট এই অসুবিধা দূর করিবেন। আমরা মফঃস্বলের প্রতিনিধি বেশী আমাদের সমর্থনেই গবর্ণমেণ্ট চলিতেছে। জিজ্ঞাসা করি মন্ত্রী-বাহাদুরগণকে, মফঃস্বলে বহুল পরিমানে ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপনের কি ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন? যাহাদের ভোট নিয়া আমরা প্রতিনিধি সেজেছি এবং যাহাদের সমর্থনে আপনারা আজ মন্ত্রীত্বের গদীতে আছেন সেই পল্লীবাসীকে এই ভাবে ভুলিয়া গেলে চলিবে না। Medical Budget এবার ৫১,০০,০০০ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। আমরা মাননীয় মন্ত্রীবাহাদুরের নিকট জানিতে চাই, নূতন ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপনের জন্য কত টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। ডাক্তারখানার ভার প্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয় গত বৎসর যখন opposition এ ছিলেন তখন তিনি প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপনের জন্য বক্তৃতা দিয়াছিলেন। আজ তিনিই এই বিভাগের ভার প্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী। তাই আমাদের সুপ্রভাত বলিতে হইবে। আশা করি তিনি অচিরেই প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপনের ব্যবস্থা করিয়া তাহার কল্পনা বাস্তবে পরিণত করিবেন।

আমরা অদ্যকার Budget reply তে তাহার পরিষ্কার ঘোষণাবাণী শুনতে চাই। Chittaranjan Seva Sadan এ ২,৫০,০০০ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন। এই টাকা এবং Ramkrishna শিশু Mangal Pratishtan এর ৪৯,০০০ টাকা এইবার ব্যয় না করিয়া এবং অন্যান্য বিভাগের আরও কিছু ব্যয় কমাইয়া অন্ততঃ পক্ষে ২।৩টি ইউনিয়ন নিয়া ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপন করা হউক।

দুঃখের বিষয় নূতন ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপন ত দূরের কথা যে সমস্ত ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডে ডাক্তারখানা ইতিপূর্বে স্থাপিত হইয়াছে এই গবর্ণমেণ্ট সেই গুলির সাহায্য পর্য্যন্ত দিবার ব্যবস্থা করিতেছেন না। আমাদের ত্রিপুরা জেলায় ৫ খানা ডাক্তারখানা ১৯৩৩ ইংরাজিতে Rural uplift grant হইতে স্থাপিত হইয়াছে। India Government মাত্র ডাক্তারখানা Building খানা করিয়া দিয়াছেন। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড সমূহ ৫০০৲ টাকা করিয়া ও ত্রিপুরা জেলা বোর্ড ২৫০৲ টাকা করিয়া বাৎসরিক সাহায্য করিতেছেন। দুঃখের বিষয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন সাহায্যই করিতেছেন না। জিজ্ঞাসা করি ডাক্তারখানার দালানের লোভাতেই বাংলার পল্লীবাসীর ব্যাধি দূর হইবে কি? আমি ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি এই দিকে আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

আমার constituency এর লাকসাম ও চৌদ্দগ্রাম থানার লোকজন নানাভাবের অভাব, দেনা ও অতিরিক্ত খাজনার চাপে যেমন দিশাহারা, অপর দিকে চিকিৎসারও সুব্যবস্থা নাই। উক্ত থানা-দ্বয়ে নিম্নোক্ত কেন্দ্রস্থানগুলিতে ২।৩টি পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী ইউনিয়ন নিয়া সত্বর ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপনের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের কৃপাদৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডগমূহ যাহাতে সাধ্যানুযায়ী সাহায্য করে তজ্জন্য আমিও যথাসাধ্য চেষ্টা করিব। গুনবতী, কনকাপেড, বাঁড়িশা, মুন্সীরহাট, ডালুয়া, বালুতা, জোড়া, ভুশ্চিবাজার, নাথের পেটুয়া ও লক্ষপুর ইত্যাদি স্থানে ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপন করা নিতান্ত দরকার।

Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion of my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar. My honourable colleague in his speech discussed the urgent need of charitable dispensaries in the Union Boards. Sir, these Union Boards are small democratic units and are the cradle of democratic ideas. They are the centres of village politics. The Union Boards are empowered to do many good works with assessments within their own areas. The poor villagers have to pay the chowkidars and dafadars entirely. After meeting this demand, it is not possible to tax them to any appreciable extent under section (*b*) for village utility purpose. So the inadequacy of the amount under the latter head cannot meet

with even the dire necessities of the villagers for contributing under head—water-supply, sanitation, medical, public health, and roads. This small amount of money is very insignificant for the work of village improvement.

Sir, people may argue that assessments of Union Board are not fair and proper—the rates of taxation are not fair; the rich pay less than the poor. But, Sir, still I may say that in the case of fair taxation the assessed amount of a Union Board is quite insufficient and inadequate to meet the dire necessity of village improvement works.

I admit, Sir, that there are some Union Boards which spent 50 per cent. of their assessed amount for the village uplift work. The amount left after the payment of chowkidars and dafadars is generally spent in repairing roads, giving small grant to primary schools and water-supply. Even the making of new roads cannot be thought of. How can the Union Board dream of having a charitable dispensary of its own at its own expense?

Sir, Rs. 58,80,000 has been allotted under the head "Medical" and Rs. 48,52,000 has been allotted under the head "Public Health" Will this Rs. 1,07,32,000 go to the benefit of the poor, ignorant, and illiterate masses of the villages, the real producers of wealth of Bengal? Sir, I am afraid, even 5 per cent. of the poor villagers will not get any direct benefit out of this money. The major portion of this amount will be spent in big medical and health institutions of the cities and towns of Bengal where the poor illiterate villagers cannot dream even to go for their treatment. The villagers need dispensaries of their own in their own villages or unions. Sir, I admit there are dispensaries in villages—I mean one dispensary in one thana. But, Sir, these dispensaries are quite inadequate and insufficient to help the poor villagers who are nowadays suffering from various diseases in almost all the days of the year. Their needs are many, they are suffering from various difficulties; medical help is urgently necessary for them.

Sir, the poor cultivators, the growers of raw products, the real producers of wealth are on the verge of ruin due to ill-health and insanitation. Sir, if they be ruined, the whole of Bengal will be ruined with them.

Sir, the Government have done and will be doing many things for people other than the poor cultivators, the tillers of the soil. It is high time that the Government will come forward in right earnest to protect these cultivators with medical help. They should be supplied with one charitable dispensary in each union.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech.)

Sir, we earnestly hope that they will come forward with practical and straightforward schemes to give medical relief to the poor people—the unfortunate and uncared for people of this province.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: From the printed list of business you will see, Sir, that the subject of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal's motion about the improvement of Sadar hospitals and the motion in my name about the policy of Government in distributing money for Sadar hospitals in the mufassil towns are identical. So, I thought that we would hear much from Dr. Sanyal and get some practical suggestions as to how the Sadar hospitals could be improved by Government. But unfortunately I was certainly disappointed to hear from my friend nothing except giving out some venom for Government's failure to appoint competent medical officers in the Calcutta Medical College. According to my friend's opinion, hitherto the officers in the Calcutta Medical College who happened to be members of a community to which he belongs, were all competent and efficient and the present officers, as they happen to be members of the other community have been all found to be incompetent, although they have been serving there for a very short time. Instead of getting any helpful criticism, therefore, we have got this sort of thing from him.

Now, I come to my point, Sir. There is a general complaint that the Sadar hospitals are practically starving. Sadar hospitals are practically maintained by District Boards and Municipalities from grants out of their limited means, and in consequence these hospitals are not equipped with proper apparatus and appliances for the proper diagnosis and treatment of diseases under modern improved methods. There is a general complaint from all sides that money should be porportionately distributed both for Calcutta and the mufassil, but I do not agree with this, because the Calcutta Medical College is not only an institution for the treatment of diseases but also one for the training of students. It is not only the principal institution of the province, but it is the most important institution of its kind in the whole of India. I know that medical experts from the United Provinces and other provinces have been coming here to get their training in the Calcutta Medical College. So in regard to this special matter, I mean the training of students, the institution has its full utility, but that is no reason why I submit the Sadar hospitals should be starved. Apart from the Calcutta Medical College, there are other hospitals in Calcutta. I can fairly say that there are other institutions, unique in their character, and I include amongst them the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan and the Jadabpur Hospital. It cannot be denied that large sums of money are going to be granted to these hospitals, but we must admit that these hospitals, the Jadabpur Hospital and the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, are also doing immense

good to the people in general—not only to the people of Calcutta but to the people of the whole of Bengal generally. I may also say that these hospitals are not places meant for the rich men of Calcutta alone but for all poor people too.

Coming to the mufassil hospitals, I suggest that Government be pleased henceforward to provide more money for the proper equipment of these hospitals with up-to-date apparatus and appliances and making provision for the treatment of all sorts of diseases and taking special care for matrimonial treatment——(Laughter and cries of "matrimonial!") I mean, maternity, but without matrimonial connection there can be no maternity cases. I submit, Sir, that in most of the mufassil hospitals there is no arrangement for the treatment of maternity cases——

(At this stage, the member reached his time-limit, but was allowed to conclude his speech.)

I submit, Sir, that instead of increasing beds in the hospitals of Calcutta, Government should henceforth pay more attention to mufassil hospitals, so that there may be less rush in the Calcutta hospitals, especially for the treatment of ordinary diseases. The Calcutta hospitals should be a centre for urgent and research cases.

Khan Sahib Maulvi S. ABDUR RAUF: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in to-day's discussion on cut motions on the demand for grant on 'Medical' I wish to say a few words. It is very easy to comment and to criticise a budget after it is prepared and brought before the Legislature for its acceptance. The resources in our hand are limited and the needs and demands of the country are unlimited. Considering the income of this province and other heads of expenditure, the sum which has been allotted to this head is not a very small sum. The sum is 52 lakhs of rupees.

Sir, the budget of a country is always called a national budget. The budget is always prepared to benefit the people of the country as a whole. But when a budget is prepared and is placed before a House for its acceptance, where the majority of the persons are the representatives of the mass population of the country, and when these representatives think that the budget which has been presented is an unsuitable budget and will not benefit the major portion of the population, i.e., the villagers and the poor people of the province, it is subjected to severe criticism by their representatives. I do not like to criticize the budget very severely, but as it has been said that healthy criticism and helpful suggestions are always needed, I take this opportunity to have my say according to my own limited idea and experience.

Sir, we know that the majority of the people of this province live in the interior villages, where it is very difficult to get proper medical

help and pure drinking water for the want of which the village people experience great difficulties and die a premature death.

Now, Sir, if you turn to this head, you will find that the major portion of the sum has been set apart for the giving of grants-in-aid to the big hospitals and dispensaries situated within the big cities and towns where a limited number of people live and who can well afford to pay for their doctors. But what has been provided for the poor people who live in the villages and who live on half meals and sometimes without any meals whatsoever? You will see, Sir, that a very meagre and poor sum has been provided for the medical help to these people. We want that there should be an aided dispensary in every village. If it is not possible to have such dispensaries, then there should be at least one dispensary in every Union. I think that this may be possible if the budgeted amount is spent judiciously and wisely, keeping an eye on the medical needs of the poor villagers. Trained *dais* should also be provided in every Union to prevent child mortality. The Medical and Public Health Departments have now been placed in an able hand, and I hope that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge will take special care and interest while preparing his future budget, so that the poor villagers may get proper medical help and pure drinking water, for the want of which they have to die like cats and dogs.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions that have been moved with the expectation that in future our Hon'ble Minister in charge will try his level best to prepare a national budget and not a sectional budget.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Sir, I must at the outset tell Maulvi Azhar Ali that he has totally misunderstood the speech delivered by Dr. Sanyal. He was just suggesting that particularly in the Medical Department only efficiency should count, and he also suggested certain measures which the Government of Bengal should adopt for the betterment of the department. That was the only point in his speech. Dr. Sanyal gave a long list of cases of jobbery and favouritism in the Medical Department, and every one of us in this House feels that it is not at all desirable that these cases of jobbery and favouritism should continue to exist. If I am permitted to bring one such case to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the "Medical" portfolio, I may say that in spite of the report of Mr. Tyson about Dr. Maizuddin of Dacca no action has yet been taken on it. Government are still sitting over the matter and have not done anything so far. On the contrary, we find that Dr. Charu Chandra Mukherji, his Deputy, who refused to give false evidence was punished because he was not prepared to give false evidence in support of Dr. Maizuddin, and that he

was transferred to a certain place—I mean Sibpur—where he is working as Superintendent of the College Hostel and has not apparently much to do.

Now, Sir, that being the case, I would appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to see that particularly in this department this sort of jobbery and favouritism should cease immediately and that only efficiency should count. By way of illustration I may say that on the requisition for an eminent doctor from Burdwan, I mean Dr. Sunil Mukherji, he was brought in by Col. Anderson in order to help him in spite of the fact that other senior officers of the department were available in Calcutta.

Now, Sir, many members of this House have appealed to the Hon'ble Minister that Government should not spend so much money to the tune of one crore of rupees on Medical and Public Health Department and they have insisted particularly Mr Jatindra Nath Basu—on the Hon'ble Minister to see that the Ayurvedic system should be encouraged Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas has spoken much in favour of the Ayurvedic and Unani forms of treatment. But one thing has been left out altogether, and it is this that the Hon'ble Minister has not said anything about the homeopathic form of treatment. If I remember correctly, it was the Hon'ble Minister in charge who last Year before the assumption of his present office supported my motion and said that homeopathy is particularly necessary for a poor province like Bengal, as it is very popular in this country and caters to the need of the suffering humanity more than any other form of treatment. Therefore, Sir, it is especially necessary in the country-side particularly every member of this House knows that in the whole of Bengal there are only 14,000 allopathic practitioners Then again most of the allopathic practitioners practise in towns, and therefore the villages of Bengal which number one lakh are absolutely neglected. Therefore, Sir, it stands to reason that this form of treatment—I mean the homeopathic form of treatment—should be patronised. Government are spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees for allopathic system of treatment, which I may say, Sir, is being spent for nothing because this form of treatment—I mean the allopathic form of treatment—I can say without any fear of contradiction, does not do good particularly to the constitution of the people of this country. As a proof of that I can say that I have never in my life used the allopathic form of treatment and I am going absolutely strong If the homeopathic form of treatment is introduced there will be a great saving to Government which at present spend huge sums of money over the allopathic form of treatment——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAH SAYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমার সময় অতি সামান্য, বলিবার বিষয় অনেক, তাই অনিবার্য্য কারণে আমি আমার প্রাণের ভাব ও আবেগ চেপে চেপে যাচ্ছি। Mr. Hasanuzzaman Medical Budget এর উপর যে বক্তৃতা দিয়েছেন তাতে তিনি তাঁর নিজের constituency র ডাক্তারখানার কথা না বোলে সমস্ত বাংলার জন্য ডাক্তারখানার কথা বলা উচিত ছিলো। Opposition member রা যেভাবে এই medical বাজেট্ সম্বন্ধে আপত্তি পেশ কোরেছেন তাতে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে ভালো কাজ করেন সেটাও তারা দেখতে পারে না। তাদের উদ্দেশ্যই হচ্ছে ভালোই হোক বা মন্দই হোক গভর্ণমেণ্টের সব কাজেই বাধা দিতে হবে, দোষ ধোরতে হবে। তাই Opposition এর ঐসব কথার কোন মূল্যই কাহারো ধরা উচিত নয়। আমরা জানি বাংলার বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিচালনার ভার প্রাপ্ত হওয়ার পর থেকে দেশের চিকিৎসা বিভাগের জন্য এবং জনস্বাস্থ্যের অনেক কিছু কোরেছেন, এবং আরো অনেক কিছু করার জন্য ব্যগ্র আছেন। এবং বাংলার একজন প্রাক্তন পুরুষ যখন এই বিভাগের আজ কর্ণধার তখন আমরা তাঁর নিকটে এবিষয়ে নিরাশ হতে পারি না। তাঁহার দ্বারা যে চিকিৎসা বিভাগের বিশেষ রকম উন্নতি হবে তাঁর সম্বন্ধে এ বিশ্বাস আমাদের মনে নিশ্চয়ই দৃঢ়রূপে রহিয়াছে।

Sir, রামকৃষ্ণ শিশুমঙ্গল সমিতি, চিত্তরঞ্জন সেবাসদন এবং যাদবপুর যক্ষ্মা চিকিৎসালয় ইত্যাদিতে যে টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে আমরা আপত্তি করি না বটে, কিন্তু বিশেষ লক্ষ্য করে দেখা উচিত যে এইসব প্রতিষ্ঠান দেশের জন্য কি করেছে? দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য এই সমস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের service কতটুকু তা জানি না। (A member from the Praja Party আপনি কি দেশের সব খবরই রাখেন?) এইসব প্রতিষ্ঠান কি কি কাজ কোরেছে মন্ত্রীমহোদয় যদি তার একটু আভাস দেন এবং সে বিবরণ দেখে ঐ প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির উপর আমরা আস্থা স্থাপন করিতে পারি তাহলেই এবিষয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যা খরচের বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন সেটা আমরা মঞ্জুর কোরতে প্রস্তুত আছি। সেইজন্য এই তিনটি প্রতিষ্ঠান দেশের কি কি কাজ কোরেছে সেটা Finance Minister এর medical বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের নিকট আমরা জানতে চাই। তারপরে ডাঃ নলিনাক্ষ সান্যাল-----

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়! আমি আমার বন্ধু মকবুল হুসেন সাহেবের, চিকিৎসা বিভাগের ব্যয় বরাদ্দের ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করি। তিনি বিশ্লেষণ কোরে অনেক কথা বোলেছেন। তাঁর সেসব কথার পুনরালোচনা আমি কোরবো না। আমি শুধু এই কথা বোলতে চাই যে, চিকিৎসা বিভাগের জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে তাহা বাংলার জনসংখ্যার তুলনায় মোটেই ঠিক নয়। এ বিষয়ে বেশী বলার প্রয়োজন নাই। আমি মাত্র বোলতে চাই যে, এই ব্যবস্থাদ্বারা আমরা স্পষ্টই বুঝতে পারছি যে, বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিচালক এইসব ভুঁড়ি-মোটা স্বার্থপরের দল (laughter) তাঁরা চায় না যে দেশের গরীব জনসাধারণের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হোক, বহুল সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হোয়ে জনসাধারণ বেঁচে থাকবে এ তারা চায় না। আমরা যতই বলি জনসাধারণ যাতে রোগ থেকে মুক্ত হোয়ে, পেট ভরে দুবেলা দুটি খেয়ে বাঁচতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা তোমরা কর, কিন্তু তারা সেটা কোরবে না। যেহেতু তারা সন্দেহ কোরছে, এবং ভয় ও পেয়েছে যে এই গরীব কৃষক আর মজুরের দলের যেভাবে সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে, যদি সেইভাবে তাদের সংখ্যা ক্রমশঃ বেড়ে চলে, এবং তারা যেভাবে অগ্রসর হচ্ছে যদি এইভাবে অগ্রসর হ'তে থাকে তাহলে এইসব ভুঁড়ি-মোটা স্বার্থপরেরা দেশে আর চালাতে পারে

না। কাজেই তারা চায় না যে আমরা গরীবেরা বেঁচে থাকি। কারণ তারা এখন থেকেই ভয় করে যে ভবিষ্যতে এই পরিষদ, কৃষক ও মজুরেরা কাঁচি ও হাতুড়ি হাতে করেই দখল করবে। তখন আর ঐ ভুঁড়ি-মোটা স্বার্থপরেরা মন্ত্রীত্বের গদিতে থাকিতে পারিবে না। যদি গরীবদের বেঁচে থাকা তারা চাইতো, তাহলে তাদের বাঁচবার ব্যবস্থা তারা এতদিন কোরতো। সেদিকে যে তাদের লক্ষ্য আছে ইহা কোন দিক দিয়েই দেখা যায় না। এই সঙ্গে আমি আর একটা দুঃখের কথা বোলছি—ব্যাপারটা হচ্চে ময়মনসিংহের। উক্ত জেলার বর্ত্তমান জেলা বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান খাঁন সাহেব নরুল আমিন সাহেব—গত নির্ব্বাচনের সময় আমার সঙ্গে ভোটযুদ্ধে পরাজিত হয়ে ষ্টেনবক্রমে জেলা বোর্ডের সিংহাসন দখল কোরে বোসেছেন। আমার এলাকার জনসাধারণ যখন পানীয় জলের বন্দোবস্ত বা জনস্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতিকর ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বনের জন্য জেলা বোর্ডে উপস্থিত হয় তখন চেয়ারম্যান সাহেব ও তাঁহার দল মোটা গলায় উত্তর দিয়া থাকেন যে "বোকাই নগরীর কাছে যাও"—যেহেতু তাকে তোমরা ভোট দিয়েছ সেই সব বন্দোবস্ত কোরে দেবে। ইহা বড়ই লজ্জার ও কলঙ্কের কথা। এইরকমের বহু অপবাদ ময়মনসিংহ ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ডের বিরুদ্ধে আমার নিকট এসেছে এবং বহু লোকে বলেছে। এবিষয়ে আমি বিভাগীয় ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি ময়মনসিংহ ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ডের দিকে আকর্ষন করিতেছি, এবং অনুরোধ করিতেছি তিনি যেন অসহায় জনসাধারণের এই সব প্রার্থনা পূরণ করেন। আমি গরীব কৃষক জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে একথা জানাতে চাই যে সরকারীভাবে যে সমস্ত ঔষধপত্রের ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্চে তা মোটেই সন্তোষজনক নহে। প্রচুর ঔষধের দরকার। আমার এলাকার ভিতর আমি দেখেছি হাজার হাজার লোক কলেরা, ম্যালেরিয়া, বসন্ত ইত্যাদি রোগে ভুগে মোরছে। ম্যালেরিয়ায় যখন পল্লীবাসী দরিদ্র কৃষক ভোগে তখন এক গুলি কুইনাইন পর্য্যন্ত তারা পায় না। চিকিৎসার সুব্যবস্থা তো দূরের কথা। গতবারেও এ বিষয়ে আমি উল্লেখ কোরেছি। আমার বাড়ীর নিকট গৌরীপুর ও রামগোপালপুরের ডাক্তারদের দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় অনেক দিন থেকে আছে। কিছুদিন পূর্ব্বে দৈনিক সেখানে ২৫।৩০টী লোকের বেশী ঔষধের জন্য আসিত না। আর আজ সেখানে দৈনিক ৫।৬ শত লোক উপস্থিত হয় কিন্তু ঔষধ কম থাকায় ডাক্তারগণ ছিটাফোঁটা দিয়াও কুলাইতে পারেন না।

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I had no mind to make any speech on this occasion as I frankly admit that budgetary performances and prophecies, to quote the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, are quite Greek to me. But turning over the pages of the Red Book presented before us, I meet with certain aspects of the prophecies which cannot be passed over lightly. To begin with, let me congratulate the Government for their earnest attempt to make the best of the worst job.

Sir, however ambitious a budget may be in its outlook, it is bound to meet with hostile criticism, some meant for destruction and some for construction. True it is that the sources of the provincial revenue have become shy owing to various factors working against them. True it is owing to mass-consciousness of civic rights there has been a constantly increasing run on the Provincial Exchequer to meet the popular demands for nation-building works and greater amenities of life. But nevertheless, we have to push ahead with the onward march of time, keeping pace with the civilized nations of the world. Sir, I would like to point out here that the wisdom of a Government

would evince itself in its ability to correctly scan and analyse the various pressing demands of the country and to put them in order of preference. But the painful aspect of the picture is that the Bengal Government in its various dispensations under different heads of expenditure betray an utter lack of planning and imagination for which the country systematically, day in and day out, has been pressing.

Sir, coming down to consider the Demand for Grant for Medical, now under consideration of the House, I find a staggering sum of Rs. 2,50,000 has been allotted to the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan alone situated in the city of Calcutta where there are more than a dozen of similar institutions open to cater to the needs of the people. But let us look to the other side of the shield. In rural Bengal, thousands and thousands of lives are ruthlessly taken away every year by the demon of malaria, kala-azar, cholera, small-pox and similar other fell diseases, leaving behind millions of unfortunate parents, helpless widows to mourn their irreparable losses. But is there any adequate arrangement for medical help to these unfortunate teeming dumb millions of the country? Have the Government thought it their duty to see that medical aid comes within easy reach of the peasantry, the back-bone of the country and the country's real producers of wealth?

Sir, the answers to these queries would be shocking. The Bengal peasantry after putting up a strenuous fight with the inclemencies of the weather in the rains and the summer, produce wealth which they are not destined to enjoy but which would be going to the benefit of those few favoured sons and daughters of fortune enjoying luxuries of the city life of Calcutta.

(Here the speaker having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: We the members on this side are not in a position to move any cut motion, but we want to make some suggestions to the Hon'ble Minister with regard to the Medical Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have only three minutes' time.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, that would be too short.

I would just like to make a few observations based on my personal experience with regard to the Medical College and Campbell Hospitals. I do not grudge and nobody can dispute that there is an urgent necessity for bigger grants for hospitals like the Calcutta Medical College and Campbell Hospitals and the Jadabpur Tuberculosis Hospital, but at the same time the people have the right to know that the money is spent both for the benefit of the rich and poor alike. May I ask

the Hon'ble Minister if he has on any occasion made an enquiry as to what benefit the mufassil people are deriving from these institutions? Are the admissions to these institutions only open to those who can easily afford to call and pay the doctors at home for their treatment or to the mufassil people also who are wretched, helpless and poor? Last year the Government of Bengal made a provision of Rs. 1,36,000 for the Jadabpur Tuberculosis Hospital. I admit that more money is needed for it, but may I know how many mufassil patients got relief from this institution and whether the present Government have got any duty to the mufassil people in regard to the treatment of tuberculosis and other serious diseases. I know of cases when the mufassil people came with great difficulty to have better treatment in the Medical College, but to our utter surprise and disappointment those people had to come back from the outdoor department for a number of days without being heeded to and admitted into the hospital. Unless they are recommended by big persons they are not admitted. If the Medical College goes on in this way and continues for a long period, we should like that such medical institutions, should cease to exist

We also find that there is a large provision for the sisters and nurses May I enquire what are the duties of those nurses and sisters, and how many patients those sisters and nurses attend to? Are they only to nod their heads and in the evening give a round in hospitals or whether they have got any other serious duty to perform? I make these allegations and I request the Hon'ble Minister to take serious consideration of my allegation. I also draw his attention to the fact that it is becoming a practice in the Medical College that unless a mufassil patient who is willing to get himself admitted, calls a doctor privately, he does not get admission.

At the same time I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that the inner working of the hospitals are very unsatisfactory. As my time is very limited I shall not get opportunity to place more facts before the House, but if I am permitted to continue I could give more facts.

With regard to other matters as well, I should like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister. We have got our festivals, Iduzzoha and Idal Feter. I know there are some Muhammadan doctors and compounders attached to the outdoor department. I have come to know that they are not getting facilities to attend the festivals on those two days. They go out at 12 and say their prayer and come back again to the hospital. If their presence is unavoidable in the opinion of the Hon'ble Minister even on those days, then why should he not look into other matters which are too serious and too important. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister just to see to the inner working of the hospital. This is a matter which should not be ignored but

should be watched carefully. I again appeal to him that the inner working of the hospitals which is hopelessly bad should be improved without any delay.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: First of all I express my gratitude to those of my honourable friends who have offered helpful criticisms. I shall take the suggestions they have offered into serious consideration and certainly those of them that are within the financial means of the Government will be accepted.

So many things have been said by the different members in the course of this debate that I am afraid it will not be possible for me to deal with all of them in the course of a short speech.

First of all Dr. Sanyal who initiated the debate launched an attack against the Government and made an allegation that the efficiency of the Medical College and the Campbell Medical School is being deteriorated on account of certain actions of the Government. This is certainly a most serious allegation, against a College which I think is not only the best in India but probably the best in Asia and I only hope that my honourable friend should have been better posted with the facts before he brought in a charge like this.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Have investigations.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am sure that by bringing in this charge my friend has done a clear disservice to the province

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why fear such investigations?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Government is in no way less solicitous for the good name of the Medical College and the Campbell Hospitals or for the matter of that of all the institutions in this province than Dr. Sanyal or any other patriotic member of this House. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Question!)

Dr. Sanyal also said that persons who had been appointed to the various posts in the Medical College were appointed not on reasons of efficiency but for certain other reasons He clearly meant communalism. He gave certain instances. I would have been glad if Dr. Sanyal could offer criticisms in similar strain where there is inefficiency in other quarters as well But I would like to say that Dr. Sanyal's charges are altogether unfounded. No lecturer or professor in the Medical College is inefficient. I repudiate the charge which he has brought.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What about Col. Anderson?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Dr. Sanyal said that the present Resident Physician of the Medical College was appointed not because he was fit for the office but on account of certain other considerations. He also said that he had not passed through all the stages that were necessary for a doctor to pass through before he could be appointed as a Resident Physician. Again I say that my friend is absolutely wrong. The present incumbent passed through all the stages and was selected by the Surgeon-General as the seniormost officer and the report of the Government is that he is doing very well in his present office. Then again he said something about the Resident Surgeon also. The information of the Government is that he has proved himself to be a very efficient man in his office

Mr. NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: [illegible].

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Dr Sanyal pointed out one instance of an alleged error on his part. I would have been very glad if he had pointed out that instance to me previously, so that I could make an enquiry. Even if there was a solitary mistake on the part of a surgeon is it any reason that he should be condemned? Sir, if that is so I think there is no expert in this province or anywhere else in the world who can say that he has not committed any single mistake in the course of his professional career

Then, Sir, as regards the Secretary of the Medical College, there again, Dr. Sanyal has said that he has been appointed for considerations other than efficiency and he says that he ousted a man who had not yet served out his full term. Here again, Dr. Sanyal is absolutley wrong as to his facts. The predecessor of the present incumbent had not only completed his full term but had been given two or three extensions and it was after that the officer in question was appointed. He was already in Government service and was found to be most suitable for the office.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was the Public Services Commission consulted?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: It was a purely temporary appointment and it was therefore not necessary to consult the Public Services Commission. Dr Sanyal ought to know that simple proposition.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The temporary man has since been made permanent.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Dr. Sanyal has said several other things about the Tropical School of Medicine. He has said that a Punjabi is reigning there and that there is no place for any Bengali in the Tropical School. I shall certainly look into the matter. If in fact his allegations are found to be true, the matter certainly requires serious consideration. I won't stay long with Dr. Sanyal because otherwise I won't be able to deal with the points that have been raised by other honourable members.

Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu raised the question of giving help to the Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine. Sir, honourable members probably know that Government have already recognised the Ayurvedic system of medicine and that a State Medical Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine has been established in Bengal and the Faculty has been functioning for about two years.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What contributions have been made by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: When the Faculty was established Government were not in a position to give any financial aid and the Faculty was established on the distinct understanding, which was accepted by the Faculty and other members who promoted it, that this would mean no financial commitment on the part of Government, but I would say that Government would stick to that decision for ever. The question will certainly be examined and if it is possible to give financial aid to the Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine that would certainly be done. So far, Sir, Government have been running all medical institutions and hospitals in this country that are established on the basis of the recognised allopathic system of medicine. So far as the indigenous systems of medicine are concerned, the policy of the Government is this that these should be given recognition first of all. Government also have decided to establish a Faculty of Unani Medicine and very soon a conference of selected unani physicians will be called for the purpose of settling the statutes for the proposed Faculty. There also Government propose to call a conference very established. Similar is the case with the proposed Homeopathic Faculty. There also Government propose to call a Conference very soon and consider certain draft statutes which when accepted will pave the way for the establishment of the Homeopathic Faculty.

Then, Sir, a great deal has been said about the apathy of the Government in giving proper medical aid to mufassil hospitals and dispensaries and it has also been said that Government have given undue preference to similar institutions situated in the metropolis. So far as this charge is concerned, some of my honourable friends have already given an adequate answer for which I am thankful to them.

In the natural course of things institutions like the Medical College must be established in the capital of a province, and also great hospitals cannot be established and developed in rural areas. Where shall we get experts and other necessary equipments that are necessary for the establishment of a first class hospital? It is therefore necessary to establish such institutions either in the metropolis or in large cities. On the other hand it is also the duty of the Government to see that the mufassil people too get proper treatment and for that Government have been doing as much as possible. The policy of the Government in that respect is that Government will render all help to the District Boards and the Union Boards towards the establishment and maintenance of Union Board and other dispensaries. Government give subventions in those cases, and Government have now taken up this position that whenever any village dispensary is recommended for help Government will never refuse to give help to such an institution. My friend Mr. Hasanuzzaman has referred to certain cases of village dispensaries in his constituency which are receiving help from the District Board but that Government have not yet come forward to give them financial assistance. I think, Sir, that the applications are being probably held up in the office of the Civil Surgeon, because when an application is made the Civil Surgeon has naturally to make an enquiry and if he finds defects he requires the dispensary concerned to remedy those defects and as soon as those defects are remedied the application is forwarded to the Surgeon-General and in all cases in which applications are recommended by the Civil Surgeon, Government give the required help. I can give this assurance to the honourable members that Government will even be prepared to exceed the limits of the budget in giving help to every Union Board dispensary that is recommended for assistance, and if necessary, additional money to a sufficient extent will be provided in the revised estimate for that purpose.

Then, Sir, as regards the Sadar hospitals it has been said that a large sum of money was provided for the development of these hospitals, but the total amount has not been spent. So far as this question and other similar questions are concerned, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable members to the fact that his department has seriously suffered on account of the frequent change in the personnel of the Ministry. The history of this matter is well known to the honourable members and I do not like to repeat it. I hope, Sir that in the coming year things will be carried on with greater expedition and I hope no money on this head will lapse in the coming year. Sir, I should also point out that the whole blame cannot be laid on the shoulders of the Government so far as this matter is concerned, because the policy of the Government in this matter is this—that whenever mufassil Sadar hospitals come forward with proposals

stating that they are able to help themselves, then the Government will be prepared also to provide the balance. And the local bodies concerned have also to give a guarantee in respect of recurring expenditure. As many as six or seven Sadar hospitals came forward with proposals for improvement and they have been given adequate help, and about one lakh of rupees has been spent in this way. There are however certain other schemes which came very late and naturally Government have not been able to examine all of them and there are many other Sadar hospitals which have not yet moved in the matter. Unless they help themselves it is really very difficult for Government to help them.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We are all helping ourselves.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: My Friend is an adept in misunderstanding. If my friend helps himself then Government will help him doubly.

Then, Sir, much has been said about the Chittaranjan Hospital and the Jadavpur Hospital and the Sisumangal Hospital. So far as the grants to the Jadavpur Hospital and Sisumangal Society are concerned, there has been a misunderstanding on the part of some of my honourable friends.

These two grants were provided not in the present budget, but these were provided in the revised budget of the current year and the money has already been spent. Therefore, in a discussion about the coming year's budget these questions hardly arise. Yet, Sir, as the questions have been raised, I would like to say that the Jadavpur Hospital has been doing yeoman's service in this province and the whole of Bengal owes a debt of gratitude to this institution and to the organisers of this institution. Some of my friends say that they do not know anything about what this hospital and the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan are doing. I am really surprised to hear them say so. Any gentleman who claims to be a representative of the people and who is a member of this House has to know and ought to know what institutions—famous institutions—like these are doing in this province. So far as the Chittaranjan Hospital is concerned, I have already stated in my inaugural speech what this institution is doing for the people of this province. What these hospitals are doing for the people of the mufassil, is a question that has been asked by many of my friends, but I think many of my honorable friends know that a large number of mufassil patients is also admitted and treated in these hospitals. Therefore, the money that has been provided for the Chittaranjan Hospital will certainly be appreciated by the people of Bengal in general. I can, however, assure my honourable friends that as we are alive to the interests of these hospitals, so also are we not forgetful

of the interests of mufassil dispensaries and hospitals. Sir, I can rather say that like Wordsworth's "Milton"—The Government is equally "true to the kindered points of heaven and home", and have confined themselves not to the hospitals of Calcutta alone but have been equally solicitous about the welfare of the mufassil people.

Then, Sir, Mr. P. Banerji launched a serious attack against the Government. He says, jobbery and nepotism run rampant in the department. He has, however, mentioned only two instances. He has referred to the case of Dr. Maizuddin. I do not know from where my friend got his facts about this case. The report submitted by Mr. Tyson has never been published, and my friend is not in a position to say what that report contains. But I can contradict him when he says that the report recommended a punishment for Dr. Maizuddin——(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not publish it?) Then, Sir, he refers to another doctor who refused to give false evidence in that enquiry and, as a result, was transferred but I say, that is not a fact. No one was induced to give false evidence, and the alleged reason was never the reason for the transfer of the doctor in question. Therefore, Mr. P. Banerji's statements are altogether unfounded.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Mahmood raised the question that on the Id-uz-zoha festival Muslim officers and students of the Medical College are not given proper facilities for performing their Id prayer. I do not know what the facts actually are. But if Muslim students are differently treated from other students, certainly this is a matter, which I admit, requires investigation.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: I have not said anything about students, but only about doctors and compounders.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I stand corrected, Sir. If the allegation is found to be true and if there is any hardship to any one, certainly that is a matter which should be investigated.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 51,30,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 51,30,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 51,30,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The three motions which stood in the name of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar that the demand of Rs. 51,30,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, moved by Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, were then put and lost.

The main demand of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 51,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 13th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 13th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 209 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Scholarships for medical education to Muslim students.

*168. **Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical and Public Health Department aware—

(*i*) that a sum of Rs. 35,000 provided for scholarships for medical education of Muslim students has not yet been distributed;

(*ii*) that the needy students are in difficulty in paying their college fees and other expenses; and

(*iii*) that some of the students got themselves admitted into the medical schools and colleges relying on help from the said Scholarship Fund?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the unusual delay in the allotment of the said scholarships?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the procedure and the amount of allotment of the said scholarships to each institution?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) and (*b*) Government are aware that many deserving students belonging to the Muslim community find difficulty in prosecuting medical studies owing to their poverty. It is with a view to helping such students that a provision of Rs. 35,000 has been made in the current year's budget for awarding scholarships to poor and meritorious Muslim students

studying Medicine in the Calcutta Medical College and in the medical schools maintained by Government. There has been some unavoidable delay in determining suitable rates of scholarships, in settling the procedure for their distribution and in selecting the candidates. The work of distribution has, however, now made considerable progress and is expected to be completed within the next few days.

(*a*) (*iii*) I have no information regarding such cases.

(*c*) Copies of circular letters issued by Government indicating the procedure for distribution of the scholarships are laid on the Library table for the information of the hon'ble member.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that some Muslim lady students are prosecuting their studies in the Campbell Medical School with very great difficulty?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That may be so.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that one Miss Chaudhuri, a lady student of the Campbell Medical School, applied for a scholarship to Government of late?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am not aware of it.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: If the lady student herself or her guardian makes a representation, certainly an inquiry can be made.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that she is the only Muslim lady student studying medicine from North Bengal, at least the whole of the Rajshahi Division?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am not aware of that.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is a great dearth of Muslim lady doctors in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, I am aware of it.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it will be possible for him to sanction scholarships to these Muslim lady students who are poor and are studying in the Campbell Medical School with great difficulty?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The scholarships in question have been thrown open to both male and female students.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: In view of the fact that there is a great dearth of Muslim lady doctors in Bengal, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make it a special point to arrange for scholarships for these Muslim lady students of the Campbell Medical School as well as of the Calcutta Medical College?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I think, Sir, that under the present circumstances every deserving Muslim lady student can get a scholarship.

Officers in the Criminal Investigation Department, Bengal.

***169. Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state the total number of officers in the—

(*i*) Criminal Investigation Department, Bengal; and

(*ii*) Finger Print Bureau?

(*b*) How many of them are Muhammadans?

(*c*) What steps, if any, are the Government proposing taking to increase the number of Muhammadan officers in these departments?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a qualified Muhammadan in the next vacancy of the Finger Print Bureau?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) 76.

(*ii*) 18.

(*b*) 23 in the Criminal Investigation Department and 2 in the Finger Print Bureau.

(*c*) Muhammadan officers will be taken in as vacancies occur.

(*d*) Yes.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the case of scheduled caste candidates if available?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Certainly, Sir.

Privies in the lower classes of the steamers between Jagannathganj and Serajganj Ghat.

***170. Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that there is no privy upstairs for the third class and inter class passengers in the steamers of the Joint Steamer Company plying between Jagannathganj and Serajganj Ghat; and

(*ii*) that the passengers, specially the *purdanashin* ladies, have to go downstairs for want of such privies?

(*b*) Is it a fact

(*i*) that there are one four-seated and another two-seated privies in the steamer for males and females respectively for the third and inter class passengers;

(*ii*) that no pipe is provided in either of these privies; and

(*iii*) that the two seats in the female privy are not even screened from each other?

(*c*) Is it a fact

(*i*) that a small space accommodating 4 benches has been provided as inter class compartment; and

(*ii*) that there is no passage upstairs either for the inter class or third class passengers?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the articles of food supplied by the stall-keeper of the steamer are not subjected to any examination?

(*e*) Is it a fact that for inconveniences in the inter class compartment many passengers change the inter ticket to second class ticket only for the steamer journey?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of urging upon the Joint Steamer Company, Limited, in these matters?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) There are two latrines for third class male passengers, one with one seat and the other with four seats, each partitioned off with a separate door, and one with one seat for inter class males. For females there are one latrine with one seat for inter class and one latrine for third class with two seats.

(*ii*) Pumps are provided adjacent to the latrines in all cases.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) The Steamer Company report that there are six benches in the male inter class compartment and six in the female.

(*ii*) This is not understood.

(*d*) The vendor obtains his supplies daily from the Railway vendor. It is understood that the food sold by Railway vendors is periodically tested scientifically.

(*e*) Statistics show that a small percentage of inter class passengers change their tickets to second class for the steamer journey

(*f*) The steamer companies propose making many changes for the convenience of the passengers when the vessel next goes to the Workshop, probably in about 8 weeks' time

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় কি জানেন কথানা ষ্টীমার জগন্নাথ ঘাট ও সিরাজগঞ্জ ঘাটের মধ্যে সাধারণতঃ যাতায়াত করে?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Surely, Sir, the honourable member does not expect me to give such particulars off-hand. I would like to have notice.

Baby NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

এ সংবাদ যদি তাঁর জানা না থাকে, তাহলে প্রত্যেক ষ্টীমারেই যে লোচালার আছে এ সংবাদ তাঁর উত্তরে কি কোরে দিতে পেরেছেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: আমি খবর নিয়েছি।

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যদি একথা এখানকার প্রশ্নকারী থেকে শোনেন যে তিনি যে তথ্য ষ্টীমার কোম্পানী থেকে জানতে পেরেছেন সে সব তথ্য সঠিক বোলে বা সত্য সংবাদ বোলে নির্ভর করা চলে না, এ কথা কি তিনি সদস্যদের কথা শুনে বিশ্বাস কোরবেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have no reason to doubt the statement of information supplied

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if waterpots are provided in these privies?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I have already stated that I have made no personal investigation regarding the condition of the latrines. For any further questions, I would like to have notice.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় সদস্যদের কথায় আস্থা স্থাপনের কথা ঘোষণা কোরেছেন। তাঁর জবাবে নিশ্চয়ই একথা বিশ্বাস কোরতে পারি যে তিনি এ সমস্ত অভিযোগ সম্বন্ধে স্টীমার কোম্পানির উপর এমন চাপ দেবেন যাতে অদূর ভবিষ্যতে এ সব অভিযোগ দূরীভূত হয়।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question d not arise.

Bengali constables.

***171. Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the year 1938-39 (to date)—

(*a*) the number of Bengalis and

(*b*) the number of non-Bengalis, recruited as constables; and

(*c*) the number of Bengalis that have been taken in the armed branch of the constabulary?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) and (*b*) During the year 1938, 827 Bengalis and 359 non-Bengalis were recruited as constables.

(*c*) 179.

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for recruiting 359 non-Bengali constables in the constabulary?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: These 359 non-Bengalis are mostly for the purpose of the armed branch. As far as the unarmed branch of the Bengal Police is concerned, it is now entirely recruited from the Bengalis. In Calcutta also, attempts are being made to recruit Bengalis for the unarmed branch.

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the unemployment question is very acute now among the lower middle class and the agricultural population of Bengal?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for which Government think that they cannot totally do away with the appointment of non-Bengalis as constables?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as the armed branch is concerned, our previous experiments were not very successful. We have again started experiments and practically one platoon in every range is being experimented upon with Bengali constables in the armed branch; and as far as Calcutta is concerned, we have not been able to get men according to the standard fixed for Calcutta Police, but I have made special arrangements to recruit Bengalis from the mufassil districts for the Calcutta Police and we are having fairly good results

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that this high standard has been fixed in order to exclude Bengalis from the constabulary of Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, this has been the practice for a long time.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of non-Bengali constables engaged in the armed branch?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I want notice

Construction of the underground drainage at Darsana, Nadia.

*172. **Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department aware that Messrs. Carew and Co. of Darsana, Nadia, are constructing an underground drainage for carrying the refuse of the sugar and distillery mill at Darsana to the river Mathabhanga?

(*b*) Have the Government received any representation from the people of the locality against the construction of the said underground drainage?

(*c*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether sanction for the construction of the said underground outfall has been obtained by Messrs. Carew and Co.?

(*d*) If sanction has not been accorded as yet, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of stopping the construction of the underground drainage at Darsana?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government propose taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A telegram from the President, Darsana Union Board, was received by Government.

(*c*) and (*e*) The transfer of the distillery to Darsana has been sanctioned by Government on the following conditions:—

(*i*) that the effluent should be discharged into the river Mathabhanga only during the rainy season, i.e., during the months of June to October;

(*ii*) that the effluent after dilutation should be carried through underground pipes from the factory to the river, the outlet of the discharging pipe being carried well into the river bed so as to ensure that the effluent is discharged directly into the river stream; and

(*iii*) that the effluent should not exceed 2,000 gallons per hour

The firm is accordingly now constructing the dilutation tank and laying the underground pipes. The Director of Public Health is being asked to see that the conditions laid down by Government are complied with.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that during certain period of the months mentioned there is no stream at all in the river Mathabhanga?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am not aware of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that when water is absolutely stagnant during certain months, this discharge of effluent would lead to serious hardships of the people nearby?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, that is the apprehension and that is why it has been under a condition precedent of the construction of this thing that during the rainy season only the effluent should be discharged into the river.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of laying down a further condition that the discharged water may be absolutely disinfected before its discharge into the river?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The Director of Public Health does not think it necessary.

Number of boilers in Bengal.

*173. **Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of boilers existing at present in each district; and

(*b*) the amount of travelling expenses realised from each district during the year 1938-39?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: A statement showing the number of boilers in each district with the amount of travelling expenses realised from boiler owners in each district during the year 1938-39 (up to February 1939) is laid on the Library table.

Allotment of stipends to college students of Bengal out of special grant for the education of Scheduled Castes.

*174. **Mr. MONMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what amount of the special grant of five lakhs for the Scheduled Castes education, has been allotted for college students of the province; and

(*ii*) whether the sum for special stipends to the college students, has been allotted particularly district by district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount has been allotted for the college students of the Mymensingh district?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the colleges of Mymensingh; and

(*ii*) the names of the college students who will be awarded special stipends?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) (*i*) Rs. 20,000 has been allotted for granting stipends to the Scheduled Castes college students of the province.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (c) (i) to starred question No. 174.

The total number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the colleges of Mymensingh are 23.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (c) (ii) to starred question No. 174, showing the names of the college students who will be awarded special stipends.

B.A. AND B.SC. CLASSES.

1. Harish Chandra Sarker.

I.A. AND I.SC. CLASSES

1. Satyendra Chandra Bhowmik.
2. Ananta Chandra Das.
3. Krishna Mohan Malla Murman
4. Satish Chandra Das.
5. Pares Chandra Das.
6. Naresh Chandra Sarker.
7. Sukumar Das.
8. Benodelal Sinha.
9. Surendra Nath Roy.
10. Mahendra Chandra Adhikary.
11. Debendra Nath Maladas.
12. Krishna Lal Mondal.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why Rs. 20,000 has been allotted for stipends to the Scheduled Castes students, although Rs. 80,000 was provided for the same purpose as was stated in answer to a question on the 10th March, 1939?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have not got the figure, but possibly Rs. 80,000 has been allotted for scholarships and Rs. 20,000 is the first instalment.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the fact that the total number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the Mymensingh Colleges is 23, why only 13 students have been granted stipends and not others?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the policy of spending this 5 lakhs of rupees?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: A Special Officer in consultation with the Committee has made out the programme of expenditure

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a Committee should be appointed to consider the question of distribution of scholarships?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will certainly consider that

Altafunnessa Park in Bogra town.

*175. **Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware

(*i*) that a part of the Altafunnessa Park in the town of Bogra is being enclosed by the Zilla School authorities;

(*ii*) that this ground has all along been used by the public;

(*iii*) that a feeling of dissatisfaction exists in the town over this encroachment into the rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by the public;

(*iv*) that public meetings have been held protesting against this matter; and

(*v*) that letters from the Chairman of the Municipality and others have been written to the District Magistrate protesting against such encroachment?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) staying the execution of the work; and

(*ii*) allowing the public free use of the plot?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) A part of the area was being enclosed but was stopped pending final orders of Government, objections having been raised in the meantime by a section of the public, the Chairman of the Bogra Municipality and the questioner.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Yes, there is such a feeling among a section of the people of the town.

(*iv*) One such meeting was held.

(*v*) Yes, as stated in (*i*) above.

(*b*) (*i*) Does not arise in view of reply to (*a*) (*i*).

(*ii*) The suggestion will receive due consideration before final orders are passed.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that a private individual paid a considerable sum of money for the acquisition of this plot?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes. Nawab Abdul Sobhan Chaudhury of Bogra paid the whole of the cost minus Rs. 4,000.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if, in view of that fact, there is any legal bar to the transferance of a part of this plot to an educational institution?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No; Government do not consider that there is any legal bar.

Suspension of realisation of recovery charges at Dinajpur.

*176. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether some tenants and M.L.A.'s of the district of Dinajpur petitioned and requested respectively the Government for suspension of realisation of recovery charges for this year on the ground of economic distress prevailing there?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

(*c*) Is it a fact that interest is being charged for the period the realisation of recovery charges was suspended last year at Dinajpur?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instructions to the Settlement Officer, Dinajpur, not to charge interest for the period referred to in (*c*) above?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Petitions have been received from some tenants. Mr. Kader Bux, M.L.C., has also made a request for suspension of recovery in certain areas.

(*b*) The matter is still under consideration.

(*c*) It is understood that in a number of cases interest was charged. But the Director of Land Records has since asked the Board of Revenue to move Government to sanction remission of interest for the period of suspension.

(*d*) The matter will receive full consideration as soon as it reaches Government.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have received any petition from some of the M.L.A's.?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No petitions have been received.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government received letters from some of the M.L.A's. requesting the suspension of realisation of recovery charges?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Government have received

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government consider it desirable to expedite the passing of a suspension order in view if the fact that the tenants may have to sell their cattle and other belongings in order to pay the recovery charges?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I can assure the honourable member that no coercive measures will be used in realising the settlement cost during the next few months

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the certificate procedure will be used against them?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, not at present.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government are 'considering the desirability' of extending similar privileges to places other than Dinajpur?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: What does the honourable member mean by the expression "other than Dinajpur".

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Rangpur, etc.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: If necessary, Government will.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the certificate procedure will not be used elsewhere, why it should be used at Burdwan?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The certificate procedure is proposed to be suspended in Dinajpur simply because the district was very badly affected by floods last year; otherwise not.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of answers (*c*) and (*d*) Government will recommend the remission of all interests in the case of those tenants who will pay their rents meanwhile, that is to say, before the Government order is passed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to answers (*c*) and (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if those tenants who meanwhile pay their rents with interest will be allowed remission?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is not a question of payment of rents. It is a question of the realisation of settlement cost.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the tenants who pay the settlement cost with interest will be given remission?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government are not in a position to answer at present without considering the question thoroughly.

Belgharia Pottery Works.

*177. **Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the Belgharia Pottery Works is a private concern?

(*b*) Has the entire capital for the concern been provided out of provincial funds?

(*c*) If so, what is the amount?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the respective contributions of the—

(1) Government, and

(2) private individuals,

to the capital of the concern?

(*e*) What has been the amount of grant of the Government, if any, towards the construction of the buildings, etc.?

(*f*) What is the recurring expenditure of the Government towards the maintenance of supervising staff and other purposes?

(*g*) What is the number of workers and apprentices in the said concern?

(*h*) How many of them are—

(*i*) Muhammadans;

(*ii*) Caste Hindus;

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes; and

(*iv*) Indian Christians?

(*i*) What is the number of ex-detenus actually working in the said pottery?

(*j*) What is the amount of allowance, if any, granted to each of them?

(*k*) Do the Government contemplate bringing in the profits of the concern to the public exchequer?

(*l*) If not, why not?

(*m*) Are the Government considering the desirability of declaring the said pottery works a public concern and providing for the maintenance of ex-detenus actually working there in the forms of wages or allowances?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is no concern so far as I am aware, known as the Belgharia Pottery Works. Possibly the hon'ble member intends to refer to two pottery factories at Belgharia, trading under the style of (1) The Art Potteries and (2) The United Potteries. These two concerns have been financed by Government by loans repayable with interest at 6 per cent. per annum granted on the execution, by certain ex-detenus, of indentures mortgaging to Government the machinery, implements, raw materials and stock-in-trade of the concerns. The amount advanced is Rs. 2,07,886, and it has been advanced to 77 ex-detenus who are working at the factories. The relation between Government and these concerns is that of mortgagee and mortgagor and there is at present no intention of altering this relation. There are 15 apprentices working at the factories, 10 of whom are Muhammadans and 5 non-Muhammadans. The composition of the workers in the two concerns is as follows: –

Art Potteries

Caste Hindus	...	62
Muhammadans	...	37
Scheduled Castes and other minority communities		151

United Potteries

Caste Hindus	...	44
Muhammadans	...	48
Scheduled Castes and other minority communities	...	68

No allowances are paid to the detenus other than the loan which has been advanced to them under the mortgage bond.

There is one Government Supervising Inspector on Rs. 150 per mensem.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the ex-detenus are Caste Hindus, how many Muhammadans and how many Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as I know there are no Muhammadans. As for the number of Caste Hindus and Scheduled Castes, I ask for notice.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what time the mortgage debt is expected to be completely redeemed by the ex-detenus?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Seven years.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any contract for instalment?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes; within seven years the whole amount is to be paid

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the first instalment was payable?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who selects the workers and who are the directors of these two concerns, if any?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The detenus were selected from the detention camp that was some time ago. After they received their training, they combined amongst themselves for the purpose of opening the factory and under these conditions money was advanced to them.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have not received my reply. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which authority actually selects the workers?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The Director of Industries helps the detenus who are the actual proprietors of these concerns in selecting the men.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the workers belong to the Scheduled Castes and how many to the minority communities?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Education cess in Dinajpur.

*178. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that acute distress prevails in many parts of the district of Dinajpur;

(*ii*) that payment of rent and cesses by the *raiyats* is being impeded in consequence; and

(*iii*) that the people of Dinajpur and some M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s have intimated to the Government that the imposition and realisation of the education cess should be suspended for the inability of the people to pay any additional cess or tax in the present economic conditions?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, do the Government consider it desirable to suspend imposition and realisation of the education cess?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) The distress is not acute.

(*ii*) I am not aware that "payment of rent and cesses is being impeded".

(*iii*) I received one such telegram.

(*b*) I have considered the question of hardship very long and anxiously and I am convinced that the cultivators are quite willing to pay the cess. The agitation against the imposition of cess comes from those who want to hamper primary education in order to get a handle to attack Government. I regret I cannot consent to suspend the imposition of cess any longer.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has in his possession facts and evidences to substantiate the sentence in his reply to (*b*) "The agitation against the imposition of cess comes from those who want to hamper primary education in order to get a handle to attack Government"?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am convinced of it.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: How is the Hon'ble Minister convinced?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I say I am convinced on facts, on evidence, on enquiry, on information and various other matters.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that last year in Dinajpur the *Aman* and *Aus* paddy and jute completely failed and the *Aman* paddy is the only source which the tenants have got to meet all their liabilities?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In spite of everything, the cultivators can pay and they are willing to pay. It is no use trying to convince me that they cannot pay because I am convinced that they can pay

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a number of zamindars have defaulted in their payment of cess and revenue because they cannot realise rent and cess from the tenants due to scarcity?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware of it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether he has taken the evidence of any cultivators before coming to the conclusion that they are willing to pay the cess?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have met many cultivators and talked to them and they have said that they are quite willing to pay.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there were a large number of mass meetings held throughout the district of Dinajpur which expressed the opinion by passing resolutions that the imposition of education cess was not desired by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is easy to get up a meeting and get up telegrams but they are not genuine.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he has taken the evidence of these agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Whenever I go out on tour I meet them and ask them and I am convinced that they are willing to pay; and I may say that the evidence I have is absolutely true.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that several meetings have been held at Dinajpur where it was stressed that even if they had to pay the education cess still they wanted primary education?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have received a telegram to that effect.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he went to Dinajpur last?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I went to Dinajpur in 1937.

Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether Government have received any representation from the district of Dinajpur to stop collecting any other cess or rent on account of distress?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Not that I am aware of.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when free primary education will be introduced in the district of Rangpur?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation in the year 1938 from the tenants or on behalf of the tenants to withhold the realisation of education cess?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Certain persons appeared and they said that they were speaking on behalf of tenants, but whether they were really speaking on behalf of tenants or on behalf of themselves it is difficult to say. But as I have said so often, I am convinced, Sir, that the cultivators want the cess to be imposed.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: What is the basis of the Hon'ble Minister's conviction?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has been answered.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the enquiry held by him was open or in camera?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not hold enquiries in camera nor do I live in *purdah*. I always hold open enquiries. May I add, Sir, that the imposition of the cess has got the sanction of the real representatives of the people.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: In view of answer (*ii*) where it is stated "I am not aware that payment of rent and cesses is being impeded", may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the answer to question No. 176 tabled to-day where the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy says that some representations were made to suspend the recovery cost and other things even from a Muslim M.L.C., namely, Mr. Kader Bux?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is because of those who do not want to pay, namely, the middle-class.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that representations are made by the zemindars in the name of tenants for stopping the primary education cess?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is what I mean.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to hold enquiry to try and obtain information from the district as to whether the zemindars are defaulting revenue and cesses because they cannot realise rents from the tenants?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not concerned with revenue or rents. I am only concerned with education cess and I propose to go ahead with it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is prepared to obtain information from the district whether a large number of zemindars were defaulting revenue and cesses because they cannot realise rents from the tenants?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister has answered that question by saying "no".

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I expect a better answer?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot help it.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of his answer that he went to Dinajpur for the last time in 1937, he made any enquiry of the hardship caused by the distress of 1938?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I know of the hardships but they have subsided.

Witness shed in Civil and Criminal Courts at Brahmanbaria, Tippera.

***179 Mr. MAQBUL HUSAIN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department aware that there is no witness shed attached to the Civil and Criminal Courts at Brahmanbaria in the district of Tippera for the convenience of the litigant public?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government contemplate taking in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) There is no witness shed for the Civil Courts at Brahmanbaria.

(*b*) If budget provision is made for the departmental scheme for providing sheds for all Civil Courts, the claim of Brahmanbaria will be met in due course. My department is not concerned with buildings of Criminal Courts.

Labour Welfare League.

***180. Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware that there is an organisation known as Labour Welfare League in Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when was it founded;

(*ii*) what are its functions; and

(*iii*) what amount of subsidy, if any, is given by the Government to the said organisation?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any other labour organisations are given subsidies by the Government?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of those organisations showing the amount of subsidy given to each of them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) It was founded in January, 1938.

(*ii*) The functions of the League are as follows:—

"Arrangement for free primary and secondary education for labourers and their children, securing medical facilities, providing for recreation and amusements, securing legal relief for labourers and paying funeral expenses of destitute deceased labourers, arrangement for co-operative societies and co-operative stores in labour areas and doing things generally for the welfare and uplift of labourers.

(*iii*) The League was given a grant of Rs. 2,250 in February, 1938, and during 1938-39, so far, a total sum of Rs. 12,500 has been granted to it in three instalments.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Servants of Humanity Society—Rs. 2,597.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this organisation, the Labour Welfare League, is a registered body, registered either under the Trade Union Act or under the Societies Registration Act or any other Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I believe, it has been registered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of its members and whether Government have received any reports from the Society so far of their activities and whether their funds are regularly audited?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Society has submitted reports regularly and its accounts are looked into regularly before grants are paid.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that this organisation, the Labour Welfare League, which was started just before the receipt of the grant, is connected with some Hon'ble Ministers of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answers (*iii*) and (*d*), whether Government are prepared to extend similar financial help to other institutions having kindred objects in view?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Certainly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Servants of Humanity Society was established, and what is the number of members thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I would like to have notice, but I believe that the Society has been in existence for several years and there are very many eminent personages who are members of this Society.

Arrangement of light in Aricha steamer station.

*181. **Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no arrangement for light in the Aricha steamer station on the Goalundo-Bahadurabad service of the Joint Steamer Company?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of urging upon the Steamer Company for properly lighting the station at night?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) I am informed that both the up and down Bahadurabad mail steamers arrive at Aricha during daylight hours for some months of the year. When steamers berth at Aricha after dusk, adequate arrangements are made for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers by means of electric cluster light and hurricane lanterns.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Waiting room for female passengers at Aricha steamer station.

*182. **Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a proposal by the Steamer Company for erecting at the Aricha station a waiting room for the female passengers?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of urging upon the Steamer Company of making provision of a bathroom with sanitary privy attached to such waiting room?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Yes. I understand that a female passenger waiting room has already been provided at Aricha.

(*b*) The companies are not willing to provide a bathroom with sanitary privy attached, and I have no means of compelling them to provide one.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In view of the fact that women passengers undergo various inconveniences for want of a female passengers' shed and in view of the refusal of the Company to provide a bath room with sanitary privy attached, is it not within the competence of the Hon'ble Minister to stop the plying of steamers, where such inconvenience exists?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am afraid, not. I have not the competency to take such a drastic action. Moreover, as regards the honourable member's suggestion for a sanitary privy attached to a bath room, I doubt very much whether any appreciable percentage of the passengers who go on these steamers are used to amenities of this kind.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister what does he mean by saying that he cannot compel the steamer companies to erect bath rooms?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Government have no legal power.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Suspension of revenue on chars east of Sandwip.

58. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(i) that there is an extended *char* lying in the east of Sandwip in Chittagong, under the Government *khas mahal;*

(*ii*) that two-thirds of the area of the *char* are unfit for cultivation; and

(*iii*) that the cultivators have to pay revenue for these uncultivated lands?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) constructing an embankment for the preservation of crops from sea-water; and

(*ii*) suspending the payment of revenue by the cultivators till the *char* is fit for cultivation?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) To the east of Sandwip there is a *char* named Char Magdhara lying within the district of Noakhali and not in Chittagong.

(*ii*) A major portion of that *char* is unfit for cultivation.

(*iii*) Remission of rent is always given for lands where paddy does not grow well.

(*b*) (*i*) It is not desirable that embankment should be raised along the seacoast as in that case the *char* will permanently remain a low land.

(*ii*) The tenants are at liberty to make conditional surrenders of lands unfit for cultivation.

Appointments in the Industries Department.

59. Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing from April, 1937, to January, 1939—

(*a*) how many appointments, temporary or permanent, have been made by the Director of Industries, Bengal, in his department;

(*b*) how may of them are—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus,

(3) Scheduled Castes,

(4) Indian Christians,

(5) Anglo-Indians, and

(6) Europeans; and

(*b*) the amount of pay drawn in the first month of this appointment by each such officer with the name and designation grouping them under the communities mentioned in (*b*)?

MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): A statement is laid on the Library table

Seat-rent of the Dacca Government Intermediate College Hostel.

60. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that the seat-rent in the lower storey and upper storey of the Dacca Inter Hostel of the Dacca Government Intermediate College is Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 respectively; and

(*ii*) that the seat-rent of the hostel of the Salimullah Muslim Hall varies from Rs. 2-4, Rs. 2-8, Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 4-8?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is this difference due to?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reducing the seat-rent of the Dacca Government Intermediate College to the flat rate of Rs. 2 only?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) The facts are not so. The boarders at present pay a consolidated seat-rent of Re. 1-14 per head per month. The balances of Rs. 2-2 and Rs. 3-2, to make the totals of Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 respectively, are paid by the boarders as contingent charges which include pay of menials, electric charges, cost of medicine, etc. This extra charge is not seat-rent.

(*ii*) The rates of seat-rent in a Hall or Hostel of the Dacca University range between Rs. 2 and Rs. 4 per head per month and the Provost is competent to fix the seat-rent of each individual student within these limits. Government are not concerned in the matter of fixing seat-rents in the Dacca University Halls.

(*b*) and (*c*) These questions do not arise.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

39—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 47,36,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health". The total provision for expenditure under this head is Rs. 48,52,000 of which Rs. 47,36,000 is voted and the balance, viz., Rs. 1,16,000 is charged to the provincial revenues.

The total actual expenditure under this head in 1937-38 stood at Rs. 30,32,000. In the revised budget of 1938-39 the total expenditure is estimated at Rs. 42,12,000. The comparative details of the new items of expenditure under Public Health are explained on pages 106 and 107 of the Red Book.

Sir, the problems of public health are many and varied. As I have already observed programmes and policies naturally require considerable time to be settled, and in explaining the outstanding features of this budget I shall try to show that Government are trying their best to tackle the various problems of public health on sound lines. I need hardly add that Government appreciate the natural anxiety of the House to see that public health reform is effected without any avoidable delay.

Sir, the problem of water shortage in rural areas is admittedly grave. Provision of adequate supply of good drinking-water is very essential for the control of water-borne diseases as well as for controlling incidence of malaria. This has also a great bearing in securing an improvement of the environmental conditions of the rural people. The block grant of Rs. 7½ lakhs, which was made for the current year pending the preparation of a comprehensive programme for rural water-supply, has been repeated in this budget. In the meanwhile, the question of preparing a comprehensive programme and the equally important question of finding out a suitable agency for its execution and other allied matters have been taken up in right earnest. The proposals of Government were placed before a Conference of Chairmen of District Boards recently held and the discussions yielded very valuable results. The rural water-supply subdivision under the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, has now been established with a view to assist the local bodies and organisations in the preparation and execution of the comprehensive programme.

Sir, malaria is the gravest menace to the health of our people not only because of its high mortality but because of its devitalising effects on the sufferers. The first line of attack in the campaign of public health uplift consists in all countries of comprehensive measures to control various forms of preventible diseases. The existing policy of fighting malaria by doling out small grants through the District Boards to Union Boards, and anti-malarial societies has been found to be inadequate. Anti-malarial measures can only yield permanent results if large grants are made available for expenditure on comprehensive anti-malarial projects such as flushing schemes, irrigation schemes, anti-larval measures, and the like. The District Boards were invited to prepare and forward schemes of a permanent nature for examination of Government. Several such schemes are under various stages of examination by Government, while others were found to be defective. In order to assist in the preparation and execution of anti-malarial

schemes, involving engineering works, a Malaria Engineer is shortly to be appointed by Government with necessary staff. Sir, it is a vast problem and Government have decided that in regard to these anti-malarial measures arrangements should be made to secure continued progress and lasting results. A lump grant of Rs. 3,38,000 in lieu of the grant of Rs. 1,18,000 was made during the current year but the money could not be wholly spent, as the various large anti-malarial schemes required close examination by the various departments of Government. The grant has been repeated for the next year and it is expected to be utilised in execution of anti-malarial works on a larger scale. The House is aware that a comprehensive malaria survey is in progress and valuable data will be available for preparation of anti-malarial schemes when the survey is completed.

Tuberculosis is a rapidly growing menace which is spreading not only in urban but in rural areas. A comprehensive anti-tuberculosis scheme has been prepared. In the meanwhile, Her Excellency the Lady Linlithgow's historic appeal for the King Emperor's Anti-Tuberculosis Fund was issued. The response has been most satisfactory and the Fund is now drawing to a close.

The comprehensive scheme is necessarily awaiting the decision to be made in utilising large funds that have been collected, so that the necessary measures may be co-ordinated. Tuberculosis survey of typical areas has, however, been started in order to obtain useful data for the campaign and provision has also been made for the training of medical and health officers in the modern methods of diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. The House is aware that a grant has also been provided in the Medical budget towards better nutrition and proper treatment of tuberculosis patients admitted in the Sadar hospitals. Government have decided to establish a climatic sanatorium in Bengal, but unfortunately no effect could be given to this decision, as a suitable site is still to be selected. The provision for commencing the establishment of the sanatorium has been repeated in the next year's budget

Another grave problem is that of leprosy The incidence of this dreadful disease is high and is on the increase in many districts of Bengal. A comprehensive anti-leprosy scheme has been prepared in this department. A lump grant provided in this year's budget for partially introducing this scheme on an experimental basis could not be utilised, as settlement of details with the District Boards and other local authorities naturally took a considerable time. This grant has been repeated and considering the progress that has already been made in regard to introduction of the more important parts of the anti-leprosy scheme in several districts it is confidently expected that the scheme will be successfully launched in the ensuing year, at least in several areas.

Sir, the problem of maternal and infant mortality is serious. It has not hitherto received the attention that it deserves. The solution of the problem lies very largely in the spread of maternity and child welfare clinics, inclusive of home-visiting, both in urban and rural areas. The pioneer work that the Indian Red Cross Society has done with State aid has been of great value, but the measures that have hitherto been taken are very inadequate. A grant of Rs. 50,000 has been provided in this budget towards substantially assisting the local authorities and recognised associations in establishing and maintaining maternity and child welfare clinics of an economic but efficient type approved by the Public Health Department. A Lady Superintendent of Maternity and child welfare work is going to be appointed shortly. Provision was made in this year's budget for the Lady Superintendent and the post was advertised but no suitable candidate was available on the emoluments offered. It has therefore been decided to appoint a Superintendent on contract for two years and in the meanwhile to train a medical graduate, native of, or domiciled in, Bengal, as the permanent incumbent. Similar action has been decided upon, subject, of course, to the vote of the legislature, in connection with the very important post of the Superintendent of vital statistics and vaccination.

Sir, the health organisation of the province is of the first importance in considering any programme of public health reform. The House is aware that since 1927 the skeleton rural health organization has been in existence, the cost of which is entirely met by Government. The present organisation has proved to be wholly inadequate for dealing with the outstanding public health problems of the province and is not at all equal to the difficult task of pursuing measures for protecting and improving the health of the people In a thorough reorganisation of the rural health service lies the solution of the health problem of Bengal by bringing both prevention and cure into effective co-ordination under properly trained medical officers of health, wholly in charge of manageable and well-defined units A comprehensive scheme including provision of adequate rural medical relief, school medical inspection, medical relief for school children and systematic health education of children and adults and provision for maternity and child welfare service has been framed in the Public Health Department and is under consideration of Government

As I have already stated elsewhere, this scheme involves large financial commitments. The scheme was placed before the Conference of Chairmen of District Boards and generally approved with certain useful suggestions for improvement. As the scheme was under examination from various aspects during the current year, the lump provision made for introducing the scheme in selected areas could not be utilised. The provision has been repeated. Several District Boards have expressed their anxiety to participate in the scheme and to co-operate fully

with Government financially and otherwise. It is, therefore, hoped that the scheme will be started during the ensuing year which, when it takes complete shape and is in full swing, would solve to a large extent the problem of public health in the countryside.

Sir, I feel that I have taken too much time of the House. If progress in making an advance in the improvement of public health has been necessarily slow, the House, I am confident, will realise the gravity of the problems and the careful consideration that they deserve, especially in view of the limited financial resources within the compass of which Government must develop their public utility projects.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the House.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 47,36,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the failure of the Government to initiate comprehensive schemes for the eradication of malaria and the control of tuberculosis.

Sir, it is undoubtedly a truism to say that a man must first live before he can be expected either to be a productive citizen or to enjoy the benefits of good government either in the shape of more police protection or impartial justice or in the shape of better facilities for communication, or of even better facilities for education. It is also, Sir, a widely-known fact that Bengal has come to be regarded as a very unhealthy province and suffers extensively from such preventible diseases as malaria and kala-azar, cholera and tuberculosis. But, Sir, how is the recognition of the obvious truth and of the widely known fact reflected in the budget before us. For the coming year, Sir, Government have proposed a total revenue expenditure of 14½ crores of rupees. How much of this has been allotted to the very important subject of Public Health?—not even 50 lakhs; to be more accurate about 48½ lakhs. Divided by the population of the province, it will come to the exiguous amount of two one-fourth pice per head. Divided by the number of people that suffers from malaria and the figure 40 millions represents them—it will come up to a little over Re. 1 per head if the whole sum of 48 lakhs be spent to eradicate malaria from this province. Again divided by the figure of mortality from malaria, which for the last ten years has been 3½ lakhs per annum, the provision for all the anti-malarial measures in the present budget, I mean Rs. 7½ lakhs, will work out to only Rs. 2-4-0 per head, which is not likely to cover even the expenditure for their burial or cremation. This, Sir, is sufficient to indicate the position taken up by our Government to ameliorate the public health of the province. Sir, one may well conclude that the recognition of the serious problems affecting the public health of the province is not at all reflected in the budget before us. Rather the provisions in the budget will show that there

can be no greater coquetry with such colossal questions. Only the most light-hearted flirtation with the greatest and most vital problems of the province is apparent from the budget figures.

Our Hon'ble Ministers, Sir, never miss an opportunity to profess their overwhelming sympathy for the suffering millions in their charge. But how to gauze their sympathy in view of the figures appearing in the budget? In the first place, we see that when we could spend only Rs. 12,60,00,000 for all provincial purposes, our expenditure, I mean, the percentage of expenditure on "Public Health" covered 3·28 per cent. and now when we can afford to spend Rs. 14½ crores, our total expenditure on "Public Health" covers only 3·31 per cent. of the total expenditure; that is, between 1929-30 and 1939-40 we have progressed only to the extent of ·03 per cent. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister said the other day that we on this side of the House were deficient in calculation and could not work out percentages quite correctly. Well, Sir, Dr. Sanyal might have forgotten for his college calculas, his school arithmetic, but being a learned "Doctor" like him, I can well admit that we may not be always correct in working out percentages when the achievements of the Ministry have to be measured by working out the figures to two places of decimal.

Now, Sir, coming to the particular issues raised by my motion, let me first of all refer to the question of malaria. Sir, in March last, I mean March, 1938, I put a question just to ascertain what the Government proposed to do in controlling malaria. The question was No. 83 of the starred questions and it ran as follows: "What steps have been taken since the present Government came into office for controlling malaria and tuberculosis?". The answer was: "A comprehensive programme for combating malaria with a view to securing lasting results and continuous progress is under the consideration of the Government. An anti-tuberculosis scheme on comprehensive lines is also under examination." Then I put in August another question just to get more detailed information on the subject, and in reply I was told—"a comprehensive malaria survey, the result of which is expected to be of great value in the framing of schemes, is making rapid progress, and several anti-malarial projects which have been prepared by District Boards are under examination and it is hoped to take up certain projects during the current year." So the "comprehensive programme" about combating malaria evaporated in these few months and the Government apparently washed its hands clean of all responsibility for preparing any anti-malarial schemes. It depended on District Boards to recommend anti-malarial projects and these projects were under examination. So this Government have no comprehensive schemes at all to combat malaria. How our governmental activities have deteriorated during the last 15 years, I can only show by referring to a speech that was made by the late lamented Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea in this House in 1922.

In inducing the members of the then Legislature to vote for the triple taxation measures that were introduced in that year, he spoke in the following vigorous manner: "I feel and we must feel that all of us who are sent here by our constituents are charged with one solemn duty—that of doing all we can to rescue this hapless province from the grip of malaria. That is a duty which we all must perform. However much we may try to disguise it, that is the mandate of our inarticulate constituents, that is the mandate of our conscience, that is the solemn duty which the sense of our obligations has imposed upon us."... ....."Now, Sir," he continued —"I have prepared with the aid of the Sanitary Engineer, a scheme of anti-malarial operations which I hope, as soons as it is ready, to lay before the Council, extending over 1921-31. It is a comprehensive scheme embracing the whole province, a scheme to be carried out through definite progressive stages. I require money for it. I require at least, to begin with, Rs. 2 crores. This will entail an annual expenditure of Rs. 18 lakhs for interest and sinking fund. I want this loan..... .. . These taxation Bills provide about Rs. 150 lakhs which will give us a surplus of Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 lakhs." So, Sir, all that stood in the way of giving effect to the comprehensive scheme prepared in 1922 for all Bengal was the sum of Rs. 18 lakhs. The triple taxes that were imposed in the year 1922 have come to stay. Further, additional taxes have been imposed on Bengal and yet, Sir, those 18 lakhs have never been found; and so far as the present Ministry is concerned, they have altogether forgotten about that comprehensive scheme, and in combating malaria they are depending on District Board projects!

Now, to come to the question of tuberculosis, it is a growing menace, Sir, and the Hon'ble Minister admits it. The number of deaths from tuberculosis was less than 5,000 in 1921; in 1929, it was above 10,000 and now, Sir, it is above 16,000; and when pressed by members of this House to formulate their scheme of control and treatment, Government would not come out with it, would not publish their scheme, but they would simply take shelter behind a survey. May I put these questions to the Government? Are Government so unaware of the foci of infection in this province that they must depend on tuberculosis survey before any scheme worth the name can be launched by them? Are the figures of crowded industrial or decadent areas affected by the disease mere figments of imagination? Are they not at all dependable? Then why take shelter behind the tuberculosis survey alone? Year after year, Government have been saying that they would set up a Tuberculosis Sanatorium, but up till now they have not been able to set up one. Years ago nearly 3 lakhs of rupees were placed at the disposal of Government for this purpose by a generous gentleman and yet Government have not been in a position to avail of this generosity. Government will not start a sanatorium. It will not give

adequate help to a non-official venture. It will not come to the aid of Jadavpur as much as it should. When Government have no scheme of climatic sanatorium and cannot start an independent institution of its own, why should it not support a non-official institution that is working splendidly? When it has found money for the acquisition of extra land for the Jadavpur hospital, why will it not contribute Rs. 6 lakhs more, absolutely necessary for the purpose of erecting a suitable building and of necessary equipments? It is incumbent on the Government to come to the aid of Jadavpur when Government has absolutely failed to build its own institution? Even after the Tuberculosis survey, what does the Government propose to do? Supposing you ascertain the focii of infection in rural areas what can you do there? In the mufussil, how can you have X-ray apparatus? In the mufassil, how can you have the aid of expert surgeons, and it is well known that tuberculosis is now going to be more a surgical disease than any other. They cannot have X-ray or experts in the mufassil and still they pretend that they have got to depend on the tuberculosis survey. In view of the rapid progress of the disease the policy of the Government is going to be absolutely intolerable.

(The member here reached his time-limit but was allowed another minute to finish his speech.)

I will conclude so far as malaria is concerned with only one observation that has been made not by any non-official, not by any member of the Opposition, but by one of the trusted servants of Government, I mean Lt.-Col. Chatterjee. He in a brochure that has been recently circulated, says: "the solution of the malarial problem lies in the combination of adequate medical relief with permanent anti-malarial measures." Further on he says: "it is certainly worth while to spend a few crores of rupees in permanent anti-malarial measures and control malaria as has been done in other countries—than to go on paying this huge toll in lives and money year after year. It requires vision and after all a determined will to do it." People will search in vain, Sir, for that determined will so far as this budget is concerned.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I beg to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 17,36,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the indifference of Government in regard to public health purposes in the mufassil of the province.

If I have been able to follow the Hon'ble Minister, he tried to present before the House how the problem of public health is of tremendous magnitude and how he was feeling himself very small with his resources and allotments. He admitted that the allotments were inadequate. Unlike other Ministers, the Minister in charge of this

department has told us that he would accept our suggestions and narrated to us about several schemes and held out hopes to us that if certain conditions were fulfilled he would be able to tackle the problem. If we compare the smallness of the proportion of the allotment with the largeness of the problem, we feel that we have got to wait till the doomsday and by that time this province will be turned into wilderness without any human habitation. In this motion I desire to discuss the indifference of the Government towards the public health problems in mufassil. By mufassil I mean the whole of the province except Calcutta, Howrah Municipality, Alipore and other suburban and mill areas in the vicinity of Calcutta. In my opinion, if Government have to do anything for the health of the people, they must do it for the mufassil because the local bodies in those areas, above mentioned, have fairly sufficient funds to meet the health exigencies, and many local non-official institutions also supplement the efforts of Government but the local bodies, namely, the district boards and municipalities in the mufassil, have no adequate funds to cope with the tremendous public health propositions and other tasks in their jurisdiction comprising a vast area with a vaster population. Out of 7 crores of people in this province about 6 crores live in about one lakh of villages. Now let us examine the allotment and figures briefly under this head. I shall not make any comment myself and leave it to the House to judge for themselves if the allotments are adequate or not. With some hesitation and diffidence I want to deal with the figures, for only the other day the Hon'ble the Finance Minister kindly gave us the testimony that none in the House except his great self knows or understands anything about the figures. It may be true or it may not be true. If this assumption is true, we are all bound to live the lives of widows in the absence of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, because he has posed to be our common and universal guardian, nay our common and universal husband. A bazar sircar of a master probably knows the figures and tackles them better than his master, but a bazar sircar is never a master. A master-mind and not the figures that make one master. The master-mind is conspicuously absent in the budget, and therefore, the present budget is nothing but the prototype of all that preceded it. A radical change in the policy and outlook that is needed, is sadly in want and can only be done by a master and not a figure expert, a bazar sircar.

Including the charged expenditure he has allotted Rs. 48,52,000, i.e., about 3·5 per cent. of the total receipt of which Rs. 10,79,500 goes towards pay, allowances, honoraria, contract contingency, works, charges in England. So for real public health purposes we have only Rs. 29,74,000, i.e., 2·1 per cent. of the total receipt. Of this again, Sir, schemes cover about Rs. 24,52,523 and kala-azar survey charges Rs. 1,21,000.

Side by side I want to give death statistics. I have not been able to gather statistics beyond 1936.

	1935.	1936.
Number of deaths due to Cholera ...	59,603	76,100
Number of deaths due to enteric fevers	8,709	8,359
Number of deaths due to pneumonia ...	41,938	49,155,
Number of cases of kala-azar admitted for treatment	1,38,279	1,37,791
Fatal deaths in the province from small-pox		46,257
Number of deaths from small-pox in the divisional towns		5,536

The total number of deaths from all diseases in the province is as many as 1,222,000 which is equal to the number of citizens that inhabit a large city like Calcutta.

Imagine the havoc caused by these diseases Now in our province, we see lakhs and lakhs of people die from kala-azar, malaria, small-pox, cholera and such other diseases though they are preventible and crores suffer from these diseases. These figures tell their own tale as to whether the allotment made under the head "Public Health" is adequate to cope with the situation. Then again, nobody is sure if the entire sum allotted for surveys or schemes will be expended during the year in question, when we remember the history of schemes and allotments which always remain unfulfilled and unspent.

Then, Sir, one word about the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital. My friends here may remember that the Hon'ble the Public Health Minister appreciated very much and paid a tribute to the authorities concerned who are running it. It is, however, strange that nothing has been allotted for that institution. That is the solitary institution which provides shelter and treatment for tuberculosis alone. Sir, appreciation and promises do not help us much and the Government must do something tangible. Though this institution is rendering tremendous service to the province, yet there are many developments urgently necessary in the case of this institution which have been held back for want of funds. The institution now accommodates only 140 patients and we are reliably informed that several patients have to be refused admission for lack of space, They have framed several schemes costing about Rs. 6 lakhs. The Calcutta Corporation have

donated Rs. 50,000 towards the schemes, and it is desirable that Government should come forward to contribute the balance. Everything, we say, is replied to by references to the activities of the Congress Ministers——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Babu LAKSHMI NARAYAN BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of rural water-supply.

সভাপতি মহোদয়, পল্লীবাসীদের জলের অভাব অভিযোগ সম্বন্ধে আমি ২।১টা কথা বলবো। পল্লীর সাধারণ লোক পানীয় জলের অভাবে যে কি কষ্ট পাইতেছে তাহা বর্ণনাতীত। অধিকাংশ লোক মহাজনের ঋণে ও খাজনার দায়ে জর্জ্জরিত, তাহার উপর বিশুদ্ধ পানীয় জলের অভাবে ম্যালেরিয়া, কলেরা ও আমাশয় রোগে দারুণ কষ্ট পায়। একে ঘরে টাকা পয়সা ও খাদ্যের অভাব তাহার উপর বিশুদ্ধ পানীয় জলের অভাবে দূষিত জলে স্বাস্থ্য ভঙ্গ দেহে যা হতাশের ভিতর দিয়া কর্ম্মশক্তি হীন হইয়া মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হয়।

সুসভ্য শিক্ষিত ব্যক্তিগণ বলেন ও গ্রন্থকারগণ আখ্যা দিয়াছেন জলের এক নাম জীবন।

যদি জলের এক নাম জীবন হয়, তবে সেই জীবনের জন্য অর্থসচিব মহাশয় কত টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন—না, আড়াই লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র। সারা বাংলার পক্ষে এ টাকা অতি সামান্য। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের এ বিষয়ে লজ্জিত হওয়া উচিত নয় কি?

জীবমাত্রেই অভ্যাসের দাস। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের মধ্যে কেহ কেহ নবাব, কেহ মহারাজা, কেহ বড় জমিদার, কেহ প্রচুর অর্থশালী, ২।১ জন যাঁহারা বাহিরে আছেন তাঁহারাও প্রেমলে মিলিয়া অনুরূপ বর্ণ ধরিয়াছেন।

বহু অর্থে নির্ম্মিত, বহু অর্থে সজ্জিত অট্টালিকার মধ্যে বহুমূল্য গদী আঁটা আসনে সদা সর্ব্বদা উপবিষ্ট হইয়া অভ্যাসটা এমনই হইয়াছে যে, মন্ত্রিমহোদয়গণ পল্লীর নিপীড়িত, নির্য্যাতিত, দুঃস্থ কৃষক প্রজা ও জনসাধারণের কথা মনে করার অবসর মোটেই পান না।

সভাপতি মহাশয়, তাই বলিতে চাই—মাননীয় একাদশ মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল বেশী নয় মাস খানেক সময় লইয়া, আলস্য ত্যাগ করিয়া, ধৈর্য্য ধরিয়া বাংলার জিলা ও মহকুমা টাউন বাদ দিয়া কয়েকটা পল্লী ভ্রমন করিয়া পল্লীবাসীদের অবস্থা পর্য্যবেক্ষণ করিয়া দেখুন তাহ'লে এই সভার সদস্যদের আর পল্লীবাসীদের অভাব অভিযোগের প্রকৃত দাবীর জন্য মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের বিরক্তিকর চিৎকারের আবশ্যক হইবে না।

পুলিশ ও building নির্ম্মাণ প্রভৃতিতে প্রচুর টাকা বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে। আর তাঁহারা এই বাংলার দরিদ্র নিপীড়িত পল্লীবাসীদের জীবন রক্ষার্থে পানীয় জলের জন্য উদাসীন।

পল্লীর সাধারণ কৃষক প্রজা যেখানে নিজেরা ব্যয় করিয়া বিশুদ্ধ পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারে না, কচুরিপানা ও ঘাস ভর্ত্তি পচা বিল, খাল ও ডোবা প্রভৃতিতে যেখানে পশু, বাছুর ও মহিষ ইত্যাদিকে স্নান করায় ও বাহ্যে প্রস্রাব করায় সেই সমস্ত জল ব্যবহার করে। এইপ্রকার জল

পান করিয়া ম্যালেরিয়া, কলেরা ও আমাশয়ে বছর বছর বহুলোক মরে। সেই সমস্ত স্থানে পানীয় জলের উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা হওয়া সমিচীন। প্রতি পল্লীতে পানীয় জলের সুব্যবস্থা হইলে প্রকার ব্যাধিতে তাহারা আক্রান্ত হয় না। সুতরাং Medical এ ও অধিক টাকা খরচের আবশ্যক হয় না।

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that the present arrangement of the Public Health Department has proved inadequate and unscientific.

Sir, malaria and other epidemics are sweeping away the lives of a great number of people every year. There is hardly any improvement in this direction up till now. Remembering that the people in the villages are units that constitute a nation, utmost care should be taken for prevention and cure of diseases which are eating into the vitals of the people who make the nation and life of the Government. Sir, much has no doubt been said on the floor of this House, year in and year out, and I do not think I should recount them all

Sir, what account for malaria and other diseases in our country and what account for the "terrors" in the normal life of the population are as well known to me as all others in the House Yet they require an eye opening to combat these enemies and tackle them effectively. Various factors, Sir, are in the working of malaria and other epidemics, the first is the hopeless condition of the drainage system. The presence of water-hyacinth, jungles, the ditches, unexcavated khals are factors behind malaria. Then again the want of pure drinking water and hygienic conditions of villages go to contribute to the devastating epidemic of cholera.

In all cases of epidemic and other diseases there is attention more to the curative side than to the preventive. But I do not think this system has worked favourable results.

Relief is always inadequate and unwholesome What is felt now is the unsuccessful attempts of a few health officers to help the affected, who far outnumber the range of their aid But, Sir, I am hopeful to see a silver lining in the dark cloud in the near future as the Rural Reconstruction Department is shortly going to be given effect to, delaying of which in any case will be dangerous. This department, if properly managed and with officers possessed of the qualification and spirit of reconstruction, shall be of immense help to the eradication of the diseases.

They should do well to plant in the minds of the ignorant people the ideal of co-operation and instruct them to create a healthy atmosphere in the village. Due attention should be exerted to the resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers and khals, clearing up of the water-hyacinth and jungles, filling up of ditches which remain water-logged during the monsoon.

The Rural Reconstruction Department should instruct officers to educate the people with lantern lectures on the diseases and their prevention.

Instances may be multiplied to show that this department with due regard to the advice of experts in health, hygiene, in regard to means of foodstuffs and all other things for prevention of diseases and imparting of hygienic education can work miracles and thus help in the advance and progress of the unhealthy and diseased multitude With these few words, Sir, I take my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find that there are speakers both on my right and on my left, so far as the Public Health budget is concerned. On my left there are three speakers, viz., Messrs. Adwaita Kumar Maji, Kshetra Nath Singha and Dr Gobinda Chandra Bhawmik. If each of them has to be given time to speak after which the Hon'ble Minister will give his reply, I think we cannot begin Education before 7-15 p.m.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 47,36,000 for expenditure under the head "39. Public Health" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government in adopting a comprehensive scheme to tackle the fatal malaria problem in the province, especially in the district of Burdwan

Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলাদেশের সকলেই জানে যে ম্যালেরিয়ার বাংলাদেশের লোকসংখ্যা কিভাবে ধ্বংসের পথে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে। বন্ধুবর নিশীথনাথ কুণ্ডু বোলে গেছেন বাংলাদেশে ১৯৩৬ সালে ১২ লক্ষের অধিক লোক মোরেছে। তার মধ্যে ৩ লক্ষ ৩৭ হাজার ৬৪০ জন ম্যালেরিয়ায় মোরেছে। এই ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি করিয়াছেন সে সম্বন্ধে আমি কিছু বোলবো। ১৯৩৩ সালে Bengal Government ৫ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোরে বর্দ্ধমান জেলার মেমারি থানার অন্তর্গত আমার গ্রামে একটা anti-malarial scheme পরিচালনা করেন। সেখানে ১৯৩৩ সাল থেকে ১৯৩৬ সাল পর্য্যন্ত পরীক্ষা চোলেছিলো। সেই পরীক্ষার সময় প্রত্যেক প্রাপ্তবয়স্ক ব্যক্তিকে ৮০ গ্রেণ কুইনাইন ও ৩টী প্লাসমোচীন ট্যাবলেট দেওয়া হ'তো (·02 gram each) দ্বিতীয় এবং তৃতীয়বর্ষের চিকিৎসাকেন্দ্র তুলে দিয়ে ডাক্তাররা লোকের ঘরে ঘরে চিকিৎসা করেন। অনেক স্থানে বিনা পয়সায় ঔষধ দেওয়া হলো, পরে ১৯৩৬ সালের শেষের দিকে আবার চিকিৎসাকেন্দ্র খোলা হ'লো। তারপরে ১৯৩৬ সালে পরীক্ষকগণ সিদ্ধান্ত করলেন সেখানে কোন ম্যালেরিয়া নাই। এবং প্রায় ৭,০০০ এনোফেলিস মশা পরীক্ষা কোরে দেখা গেলো যে সেগুলোর ম্যালেরিয়া সংক্রামক করার ক্ষমতা নাই। আমি জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে প্রশ্ন করেছিলাম—তিনি গত ১০ই মার্চ্চ তারিখে তার উত্তর দিয়াছেন। দুঃখের বিষয় anti-malarial scheme যে মেমারি থানার অন্তর্গত আমেদপুর গ্রামে স্থাপিত হয়েছিলো তিনি সেই থানারই সম্পূর্ণ রিপোর্ট দেন নাই। তবুও যাহা দিয়াছেন তাতেও দেখা যায়—বর্দ্ধমান জেলায় ১৯৩৮ সনের আগষ্ট থেকে ডিসেম্বর মাসের ভিতর ১০,৭১৯ জন লোক মোরেছে। তাই হলো 'anti-malarial scheme এর পরিণতি। গভর্ণমেণ্ট আর কি বড় কোরেছেন? না, জলপাইগুড়ির লেবোরেটরিতে ৪,১১১ বড় মশা ঘোরে পরীক্ষা করছেন। কিন্তু এই পরীক্ষা বহু দিন ধরে চোলে এসেছে এখনও রিপোর্ট দেয় হয় নাই। ১৯৩৬ সালের রিপোর্টে দেখা যায় malaria takes a heavy toll of lives in this province amongst the general population and is mainly responsible for sapping the vitality of the people. With uncontrolled pregnancy it brings in premature death amongst the mothers and is

responsible also for a large number of abortions. Still births and premature births and all the concomittant evils pertaining to them such as, maternal deaths, infantile mortality, etc. In census report of 1911 malaria is known as "Burdwan fever". Dr. Bently সাহেব এই Burdwan fever এর কথা উল্লেখ করে তাহা রক্ষা করিবার জন্য একটা পরিকল্পনা করিয়া গিয়াছেন, তাহা বোধ হয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অবগত আছেন। বেণ্টলি সাহেব যে scheme কোরেছিলেন বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী গভর্ণমেণ্টও সেটা কার্য্যকরী করেন নাই। ম্যালেরিয়ার মৃত্যুসংখ্যাতে যত লোকের উল্লেখ আছে তার চেয়েও বেশী লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভোগার দরুণ মোরে থাকে। কেননা—ম্যালেরিয়া হোতে অন্য সমস্ত রোগ, যেমন যক্ষ্মা প্রভৃতি কি কোরে হয় তা অনেকেই জানেন, তাছাড়া শিশুমৃত্যুর হারও যে ম্যালেরিয়ায় বৃদ্ধি করে তা মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ও অবগত আছেন। সুতরাং সূক্ষ্মভাবে একটু বিচার কোরলে দেখা যায় পূর্ব্বকথিত ৩,০৭,৬৪৭ জনের চেয়ে আরো বেশী লোক ম্যালেরিয়ার প্রকোপে এই বাংলা-দেশে মোরে যাচ্ছে। সুতরাং বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের অনুষ্ঠিত ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের ব্যবস্থাটা দেশের প্রয়োজনানুসারে কিছুই নয়। আর একটা কথা এখানে বলা যেতে পারে, সেটা হচ্ছে এই যে কুইনাইন সম্বন্ধে। ১৯০৬ সনে দেখা যায় যে মাত্র ৬,০০৭ হাজার পাউণ্ড কুইনাইন পোষ্টাফিসের মধ্য দিয়ে ও অন্যান্য উপায়ে বিতরণের বন্দোবস্ত হয়েছে। কিন্তু জনসাধারণের প্রয়োজনের দিক দিয়ে দেখলে এ কতটুকু? বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় যে অল্প ব্যয়ে যাতে সকলে কুইনাইন কিনতে পারে সেইরকমভাবে কুইনাইনের দাম কম করবার কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। এদিকে, মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের ভিতর মন্ত্রীদের সংখ্যা যেমন বাড়ছে, বাংলাদেশে ম্যালেরিয়াগ্রস্ত রোগীর সংখ্যাও তেম্নি বেড়ে চোলেছে। ঐ যে ১২ লক্ষের উপর লোক মোরেছে তারমধ্যে হিন্দুদের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মুসলমানও বাদ পড়ে নাই। ঐ মৃত্যু সংখ্যার ভিতর মুসলমানের সংখ্যা ছয় লক্ষেরও উপর। মাঝে মাঝে কেবল স্কীম বের করা ছাড়া বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী দেশের লোকের মৃত্যুহার কমানোর দিকে কোন চেষ্টাই কোরছেন না। এর চেয়ে দুঃখের বিষয় আর কি হোতে পারে? জনসংখ্যা যখন নিম্নগ্রাস হোতে চোলেছে তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে বাজেটের ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের জন্য যে ব্যয় ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে সেটা কিছুই নয় এবং আজ পর্য্যন্ত যেসকল পরিকল্পনা করেছেন তাহা সমস্তই বিফল।

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to establish one dispensary in each union.

Sir, in moving my motion, I would like to state that one dispensary should be established in every union in this province. Sir, the reason why I make this suggestion is this, that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Public Health will bear in mind that he is a man from the village and that his forefathers lived in the villages and the cradle of the Hon'ble Minister is still, I hope, in his village home.

Sir, I would like to point out that the whole province of Bengal is being gradually destroyed by the scourges of malaria, kala-azar, small-pox, cholera, etc., every year. Every minute people are dying in hundreds from these diseases, and Government cannot stop or even reduce the mortality because they say they are short of means. Government are spending large sums of money for medical relief and still the death rate is increasing by leaps and bounds. What is the reason, Sir? I would like the Hon'ble Minister, who is a commoner, to consider this and take suitable measures to save the people living in the villages from the scourge of all these diseases.

As regards kala-azar, Sir, I would like to point out that this disease has come from Assam. Its native home is Assam and it has now entered Bengal through the Eastern Frontier. While in Assam the mortality from this disease is gradually decreasing, it is increasing in Bengal, which is its present abode. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to look into the cause—why it is increasing in Bengal and, at the same time, decreasing in its original home?

Sir, in order to reduce the mortality from all these diseases, I have moved my motion that in every village, in every union there should be a dispensary. If it is not possible to establish a dispensary in every union, then let one dispensary be provided for 2 or 3 unions taken together, so that the people in need may get the fullest advantage out of it, because cholera cannot wait and the people have at present to travel 10 or 12 miles to get their medicines. Unless Government move in the matter and start dispensaries, it is simply impossible to save the poor people from the scourge of all these diseases. While on this subject, I would like to point out, Sir, that in the thana dispensaries the people are charged nowadays one anna for the first day and 2 pice for the subsequent days. What is the justification for this charge? It is well known that the poor people in the villages cannot afford to spend a single farthing for their treatment. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to look into this and put a stop to this sort of taxation from the poor people.

One word more, Sir, and I will finish. In the dispensaries the people should be treated free and at the cost of Government. People should not be charged for the doctors' fees and for the cost of medicines. I know of several cases, Sir, where although patients have been treated in the dispensaries, the doctors have always made contracts with them that a certain amount of money should be paid to them. Until that amount is paid, the doctor does not move in the matter of treating the patient. This state of things must be stopped. If Government are at all serious——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will say only a few words (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not move a cut motion?)

Let me, Sir, in the first instance, congratulate the Hon'ble Minister on his speech commending the Public Health Grant to the acceptance of this House. It is very nicely worded and considerate although it signifies very little. We have very carefully considered his speech, and we also realise that he has appreciated our anxiety to speed up public health reform measures, so that we, the people in the rural areas, may live in a healthy environment, so that we the people in the

rural areas may not be attacked with the terrible scourges of preventible diseases such as malaria, cholera, and other epidemic diseases which at present devastate the countryside. This misery must end.'

Sir, we do not for a moment doubt the good intentions of the Government, but we see that the speed with which Government are moving is very regrettable. A certain very warm region, which I need not name, is said to be paved with such good intentions. Government have prepared, we are told, various comprehensive schemes to eradicate the various diseases from the province. We are very happy to hear of it. The mills of God grind slowly, but the mills of the Government appear to grind slower still. Unfortunately while files swell in size and move from department to department and get stuck up here, there and everywhere and the Finance Department suggest cuts and condemn proposals, people die and nothing is done.

Sir, let me assure the Government that this criticism is made not in a carping spirit but in sorrow akin to despair. What I would like to impress upon the Government is this—we know that they are as much anxious as we are to introduce reforms in public health which was allowed, through the short-sighted policy and neglect of the Government to deteriorate causing endless misery, suffering, morbidity and mortality to the teeming poor of the countryside. The fault of these teeming millions has been in the good faith that they have in the Government and in their *kismat*. What is now wanted is that Government should eschew red-tapism and go ahead with their schemes of improvement of which, alas, we have heard so much, but which have not come to anything as yet. The time for pious resolution has passed and I would call upon the Minister to screw his courage to the sticking point and see that his schemes of improvement materialise effectively. It is then and then alone that he can justify himself as the Minister of Public Health.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 47,36,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of Government regarding administration and prevention of curable diseases.

বাংলাদেশে ১৯৩৬ সালে ১,২২২,৭২৪ জন লোক মারা যায়। মুর্শিদাবাদ, নদীয়া, পাবনা, যশোহর প্রভৃতি ১৫টী জেলায় মৃত্যুর হার ক্রমশঃ বেড়ে চোলেছে। এবং ঐসব জেলায় মৃত্যুহার যেভাবে বেড়ে চোলেছে—যদি আরো কিছুদিন এইভাবে চলে, তাহলে ঐসব জায়গা ক্রমশঃ জনশূন্য হোয়ে পোড়বে। কাজেই আমাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে এখন থেকেই সাবধান হোতে হবে। আমরা যখন Provincial Autonomy পেয়েছি—যখন আমাদের দেশের Popular Ministry form হোয়ে তাঁদের নির্দ্দেশমত শাসন পরিচালিত হচ্ছে, তখনো যদি দেশের লোক এইভাবে মারা যেতে থাকে—তাহলে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী কি কোরছেন—সে সম্বন্ধে দেশের লোককে কৈফিয়ৎ দেবার দিন এসেছে। ১৯৩৬ সনে যে মৃত্যুসংখ্যার কথা বোলছি—তারমধ্যে ম্যালেরিয়ায় মোরেছে ৩৩৭৬৪৭ জন, কালাজ্বরে মোরেছে ২১,১৬১ জন, নিউমোনিয়ায় মোরেছে ৪৯,৯৫৫ জন, বসন্তে মোরেছে

১৫,২৬৬ জন, অন্যান্য রোগের কথা নাই তুল্লাম। এই যে ১২ লক্ষ লোক নানা রোগে মারা গিয়েছে তাদের মৃত্যুর হাত থেকে রক্ষা করা যেতো যদি সময়ে উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হতো। কলেরা প্রতিষেধকের যেরকম ব্যবস্থা নওয়া হয় তা একেবারেই সন্তোষজনক ও উপযুক্ত নয়। একেতো বাংলাদেশে যেসব Health centre আছে সেগুলি দেশের প্রয়োজনের পক্ষে যথেষ্ট নয়। কারণ প্রায়শঃই দেখা যায় যে যখন কোনও গ্রামে কলেরা হয় তখন গ্রাম থেকে বহু দূরে অবস্থিত Health centre থেকে সময়মত সাহায্য পাওয়া সম্ভব হয় না। সকাল বেলায় হয়তো কোন পরিবারের লোকের কলেরা হয়েছে আর Health centre থেকে সাহায্য আসতে আসতে সন্ধ্যা ৭টা; এবং সেখান থেকে সাহায্য আসার আগেই পরিবারের লোক মারা গেল। এইভাবে যদি Health centre হয় তাহলে যেগুলি হয়েছে সেগুলি দ্বারা লোকের কোন সাহায্য হচ্ছে না, সেগুলি লোকের প্রকৃত কাজে লাগছে না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট ম্যালেরিয়ার জন্যও বিশেষ কিছুই কোরছেন না। আপনারা কেউ যদি গাঁয়ে যান তাহলে দেখতে পাবেন কি? দেখতে পাবেন প্রত্যেক লোকের পেটে পীলে আর লীভার হয়ে লোকগুলো সব অকেজো হয়ে গেছে। কৃষকদের পরনে কাপড় নাই, রোগের ওষুধ কিনে খাবার পয়সা নাই, কুইনাইন কিনেও খেতে পারে না। যখন জ্বর আসে ছেঁড়া কাঁথা গায়ে দিয়ে কাঁপতে থাকে, তারপর যখন ছেড়ে যায় অবসন্ন শরীরে জীবিকার্জ্জনের জন্য মাঠে বেরোয়। এইভাবে তারা দিন দিন সম্পূর্ণরূপে কাজের অনুপযুক্ত হোয়ে পোড়ছে। এখন বাংলা দেশের এইসব রোগজীর্ণ কৃষককুলকে যদি বাঁচাতে হয় তাহলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিশেষভাবে চেষ্টা কোরতে হবে—যাতে দেশ থেকে ম্যালেরিয়া দূর করা যায়। আমরা বর্ত্তমান সময় যা দেখতে পাচ্ছি,—ম্যালেরিয়া দূর করার জন্য যে পরিমাণ টাকা মঞ্জুর করা হচ্ছে এতে ম্যালেরিয়া মোটেই দূর করা যেতে পারে না। ম্যালেরিয়া অচিরেই যাতে দেশ থেকে দূর হোয়ে যেতে বাধ্য হয় এবং দেশের লোকের স্বাস্থ্য সম্পদ লাভের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে যাতে পল্লীর শ্রী ফিরে আসে সেবিষয়ে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর যথেষ্ট চেষ্টা করা উচিত। আজ তাঁরা সেটা যদি না কোরতে পারেন তাহলে তাঁদের পক্ষে মন্ত্রীত্ব করা উচিত নয়। কারণ দেশবাসীর ভোটের জোরে—দেশের কাজ করবার জন্যই তাঁরা এখানে এসেছেন এবং তাঁদের কাজের কৈফিয়ৎ দেশবাসীর নিকট দিতেই হবে। আর সে কৈফিয়ৎ দেবার সময়ও নিকটবর্ত্তী।

আর একটী বিষয়ে আমি দেশবাসীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরছি। সেটা হচ্ছে শিশুমৃত্যুর সংখ্যা। বাংলাদেশে, একবৎসরের নিচে যাদের বয়স তাদের মৃত্যুসংখ্যা হচ্ছে ২৮৫,০০০। যদি প্রতি বছর ২ লক্ষ পঁচাশি হাজার ছেলে মারা যায় তাহলে এর চেয়ে দুরবস্থার বিষয় বাংলাদেশের আর কি হোতে পারে? যেরকম কোরেই হোক এই শিশুমৃত্যুর হাত থেকে বাংলাদেশকে রক্ষা কোরতেই হবে। তার জন্য আমাদের বিশেষভাবে চেষ্টিত হওয়া অবিলম্বে কর্ত্তব্য।

Maulvi AFTAB HOSAIN JOARDAR: Sir, I shall not move the motion that stands in my name under the head "39- Public Health" I only like to raise a discussion about the policy of Government grant for rural water-supply.

Sir, Government used to make an annual grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs for supply of drinking water in rural areas of the province. It is, Sir, really very kind of Government that this grant has been increased now to Rs. 7½ lakhs. But in spite of what has been achieved, the shortage of water in rural areas is still very acute and the problem of water-supply still remains unsolved. The money allotted to each district cannot be spent during the year Many districts have to surrender large portions of their shares at the end of the year. This is not

because that the districts have sufficient sources of water-supply. The reason why the allotments are not fully utilised is this: one of the conditions attached to the grant is that a contribution amounting to at least one-third of the total cost of each project is made available from local resources.

But, Sir, most of the rural people of the province are poor cultivators. They can by no means afford to pay this contribution. The Commissioner has given the discretion to partially or fully waive this contribution in special cases no doubt. But, alas, their special cases are the cases of zemindars and influential people who can easily themselves bear expenses of water sources and the Commissioners are generally found to use their discretion to waive the contribution there.

Sir, unless and until this policy of Government, I mean the policy of raising contribution from local people, is abolished, the problem of water-supply in rural areas will remain unsolved. I, therefore, recommend to Government that this condition of the grant be immediately abolished. Unless this is done, the mere provision for increased grant will be but a dumb show.

I should like to say a few words regarding the negligence of Government in taking steps for proper sanitary measures in the Darshana Sugar Mills area at Darshana in Nadia.

I only like to speak here to the house in a nutshell what a menace the sugar mills have been to the public health of the locality. The mills have been started only a few months ago without any sanitary measures, without adopting proper method of discharging their effluents. The result is that during this period, short though it is, cholera, typhoid, malaria and other epidemic diseases have broken out several times in the mill areas and infection was carried to the surrounding villages. Thus the people of the locality have lost their peace of mind. They have to at all times apprehend when an infection is carried to the village. Once I had been to the mill areas and the bad smell that comes out of the effluents of the mills is really very provoking and repulsive. I began to feel the smell when I was a mile off from the mill area and as I moved nearer and nearer, the smell became more and more repulsive. I had to stay there a quarter of an hour and that I did with much difficulty. I shudder to think how the people work in the mills and how the people live in the surrounding villages. Those who have never been to such mills——

(Here the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: I have to say a few words, regarding the supply of water in rural areas. You all know that in almost all villages there is scarcity of drinking water. The local boards and district boards have tried to supply the water by means of

wells and tube-wells. But in comparison with the density of population the number of wells and tube-wells is small, and there is an absolute need of providing more drinking water. In this connection I wish to draw the special attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that there is scarcity of water in the subdivision of Asansol. We all know that Asansol subdivision is full of collieries, and the owners of collieries dig pits for raising coal and the rain water percolates into the mines. During the summer season there is not a single drop of water in the villages and the village women have to go to a distance of two or three miles under the scorching rays of the sun to get water for drinking and bathing purposes. In some of the collieries the owners supply some kind of water by giving taps, but in the villages where the collieries have been abandoned the misery of the people knows no bound. You can well imagine what will be the fate of the people in the villages when the other collieries will also be abondoned. I ask the Hon'ble Minister to make some provision for the supply of drinking water in the villages where the collieries have been abandoned. In some places where the collieries have subsided on account of the coal being taken out, the sufferings of the people are great. Before I take my seat I request the Hon'ble Minister to make suitable provision for drinking water in the area.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Not much has been said by the various speakers that was not anticipated in my inaugural speech. I think, therefore, that it will not be necessary for me to take much of the time of the House in giving replies to the various points that have been urged. Mr. Rai Chaudhuri and several other speakers made a complaint against the Government that the provision for public health purposes is not sufficient.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Quite insufficient.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: My friend improves the language by saying that it is quite insufficient.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Hopelessly.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: So far as this charge is concerned, I am reluctant to say that the Government are altogether not guilty. I would rather say that I have done the act, but I am not guilty. Circumstanced as the Government are, it is hardly possible for Government to spend more money for "Public Health" affairs. When my friends look at a certain thing they do so from one particular point of view. They naturally do not take a comprehensive view of the activities of Government as a whole. It is, therefore, that they always emphasize particular points forgetting that there are other

equally important matters that require the attention of the Government. I have already said that so far as the provision is concerned, it is sufficient. Government would have been very happy if it could spend more money for the promotion of "Public Health".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Plead guilty and seek pardon.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Rai Chaudhuri and several other speakers have spoken about malaria. I congratulate Mr. Rai Chaudhuri on the industry and inquisitiveness he has shown in unearthing a scheme which is 17 years old. He referred to a speech of the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerji of revered memory. Sir, I do not know how far a scheme about two decades old would suit present conditions

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: That has not been tried.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have already indicated in my initial speech what steps Government are taking for the purpose of fighting this scourge of malaria. My friend complained that the only things that Government has produced are certain schemes made by the district boards of the province. Sir, I would submit that the district boards are the component parts of the province and if anti-malarial schemes in all the districts are framed by the district boards; I feel that will mean a comprehensive scheme for the whole of Bengal. Of course something more may have to be done by way of co-ordination. But I think no Government can be so obtuse-minded as to forget that aspect of the question Once the various district boards frame their own anti-malarial scheme, I think that will be for all practical purposes a comprehensive scheme for the whole of Bengal. I have already said that we have been labouring under certain disadvantages The district boards also have been labouring under disadvantages They have no experts for the purpose of framing their anti-malarial schemes and for this purpose what Government have decided is to appoint a Malaria Engineer. He will advise the district boards in framing anti-malarial schemes When the schemes are framed I think Government will immediately take action, and I can say as I have already said that several districts have already sent up schemes; some of those schemes appear to be quite practicable. As soon as Government come to a decision as to the feasibility of the schemes work will be taken up in right earnest.

Then, Sir, as regards tuberculosis, Mr. Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri complained that there was no use having a survey.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: I did not say that.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: He said something to this effect; it is not much use making a survey.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am sorry that he has taken a view like that. A survey is extremely useful if a comprehensive scheme is to be prepared. Sir, typical areas where this disease is prevalent have to be found out and also it has to be found out amongst what classes of people this disease is prevalent. There are certain other very important data that require to be collated and Government are very happy to announce that this tuberculosis survey has already been completed. It is not a fact that Government have not done anything. Government have provided for the training of doctors and health officers in the treatment of tuberculosis. Government have also provided money to be given to Sadar hospitals for giving nutritive diet to tuberculosis patients. But I have already said in my initial speech that Government are not now proceeding with the scheme for the simple reason that the appeal of Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow is there and we expect a large sum of money to be allocated to Bengal out of that fund. It is simple commonsense that the comprehensive scheme we are expecting must be framed keeping in view the additional money that will be made available to us. I think that the fund is now drawing to a close and we shall very soon be in a position to know what amount of money we get from that fund. As soon as we know that we shall be able to give effect to the comprehensive scheme.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What do you propose to spend from your own funds?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: What about Jadavpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: So far as Jadavpur is concerned my friend should not forget that only last year or rather in the current year in the revised budget a large sum of money was provided for Jadavpur. That money has already been given to Jadavpur, and I may add there is another proposal for giving a further grant to that hospital under the consideration of Government. Government are not at all forgetful of the claims of the famous institution of which the whole of Bengal is proud. We can only do as much as lies in our power.

Then, Sir, some of the speakers, especially Mr. Rai Chaudhuri, have referred to the proposed Tuberculosis Climatic Sanitarium. I am really very sorry that the project has not materialized till now. A certain

gentleman generously made a gift of a large sum of money. Government have not been able to utilise it on account of the simple fact that the question of the proposed site has given rise to a good deal of controversy. I think, Sir, that matters have now cleared up to a very great extent and I hope that Government will be able very soon to take a final decision as to the site, and as soon as that decision is taken, work will be commenced.

Then, as regards water scarcity, that certainly is a very great problem of the province. Government have been spending decent sums of money for several years—Rs. 7½ lakhs per annum. Here again I have already said—probably some of my friends did not notice it—that a comprehensive scheme is under preparation. District Water-supply Committees, subdivisional committees, and thana committees are at work, and these committees are making a survey of available sources of water-supply in the various districts and they will also make a survey about the requirements of each district. They will also frame their schemes according to the urgency of particular localities. A locality in which, say, cholera breaks out in an epidemic form periodically would be given preference to other areas. In this way they will classify their projects in the order of urgency as 1, 2, 3, etc., and those projects which are more important will be taken up earlier than others.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, namely, that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 for indifference in regard to public health purposes in the mufassil of the province, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Lakshmi Narayan Biswas that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Kshetra Nath Singha that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Gobinda Chandra Bhowmik that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji that the demand of Rs. 47,36,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The substantive motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 47,36,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" was then put and agreed to.

37—Education—General.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,53,56,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General".

Mr. RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: I beg to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a debate for failure of Government to introduce compulsory free primary education without taxation on the agriculturists in disregard to the resolution passed in the last Legislative Assembly session.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the introduction of Provincial Autonomy and the Neimyer's financial award, Bengal is financially a more fortunate province than it was before. By this financial dispensation Bengal has got about 2 crores of rupees more by its receipt side. Over and above that, the Finance Minister is going to impose fresh taxation on the people. At the same time the Bengal Cabinet has not launched upon any scheme like prohibition or otherwise which has incurred great loss of revenue in Congress Provinces. The general and political atmosphere of the country is more calm and undisturbed to-day than it was before.

In spite of all these favourable conditions under which the present Ministry began its work, we find when we come to the expenditure side that they have utterly failed to do any justice to the nation-building departments which are closely connected with the toiling masses of the country. Whatever money may come it goes to the ease and comfort of the officialdom and some favourite sons. Thus we find that it is not want of money but want of sympathy for the poor that is responsible for the failure

Now, coming to the Education Department under discussion, I like to ask Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, leaving aside the consideration of all other departments, what has been done towards the education of the poor voters, whose votes have raised him to the present position? Is he not even after full two years ashamed of opening his lips and speaking of big talks and his professional false promises? If he is convinced that the people of Bengal, the poor agriculturists of Bengal, are capable of paying educationcess, why does he not enforce the Education Act throughout the province at a time and see the consequence? Why does he halt? Does not the Chief Minister know that want of education and health are the two causes which are eating into the growth and vitality of the poor Muslim mass of Bengal. Could he not set apart a part of the increased revenue which Bengal got under the Niemeyer Award for the Departments of Education and Health and manage other departments with retrenchment of cost? So far as the imposition of

education cess on the agriculturists is concerned, this House gave its clear verdict against it at the last session of the Assembly, but in spite of that Government have imposed education cess in Tippera and other districts. This is a flagrant disregard of the opinion of the House.

In the last session of the Assembly two other resolutions were passed, but the Cabinet has simply kicked out every resolution of this House because the Cabinet knows that they have got a set of members who will worship them under any circumstances, and when they are discontent a cry of "Islam in danger" coupled with an abuse of the Congress will pacify them. What can we expect from a Chief Minister who can sell anything—I mean prestige, honour, Muslim community and the sacred religion of Islam—for the upkeep of his Ministership even at his advanced age of 70 years?

Now, Sir, coming to the imposition of education cess in Tippera without making the education compulsory, I cannot but say that it will not only create hardship on the poor agriculturist but also stop the rural education to a large extent.

So long there was hardly any village without a maktab, but under the present Education Act some 5 or 6 maktabs are going to be established in a union consisting of not less than 30 to 35 villages. Can we expect under these conditions that young boys of 5 to 10 years of age will attend such distant schools when education is not compulsory? Consequently the education of 75 per cent. of the boys will be stopped. If the Government want to educate the children with the money of their guardians, at least one school in every village is necessary. Otherwise primary schools must be free without taxation, so that distant villagers will make their own provision if they do not send their children to free schools. On the other hand, the establishment of these limited number of schools will create a large number of experienced maktab teachers unemployed.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 for expenditure under the head "37— Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of grant to High English Schools and distribution of grants and scholarships.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমার এই সামান্য প্রস্তাবটা দ্বারা বাংলার মন্ত্রীদের নিকট শিক্ষার প্রকৃত উদ্দেশ্য, বর্ত্তমানে দেশের সম্মুখে যা নাকি প্রধান সমস্যা,—কি প্রকারে দেশময় জাতীয় শিক্ষাকে প্রসারিত করা যায়,—সে রকম কোন পরিকল্পনা স্থাপন কোরছিনা। কারণ সেটা করা বৃথা। যাদের মনে জাতীয়তা বোধের অভাব, যাদের বুকে সমগ্র সমাজের মঙ্গলকর কার্য্যের আকাঙ্খার উদ্রেক হয় না, তাদের কাছে সে পরিকল্পনা স্থাপন করা বৃথা। কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানকালে চারিদিকে

দারিদ্রের হাহাকারের মধ্যেও আমাদের দেশে যে উচ্চ ইংরেজী বিদ্যালয়গুলি টিকে রয়েছে সেই সমস্ত উচ্চ ইংরেজী বিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক ও পরিচালকদের মধ্যে যে অস্বাভাবিক আবহাওয়া ও দুর্নীতি দেশের এই দারিদ্র্যের মধ্যদিয়ে এসে প্রবেশ কোরেছে সেই বিষয়ে কয়েকটি কথা আমি শিক্ষামন্ত্রীর নিকট উপস্থিত কোরতে চাই। কিছু দিন পূর্ব্বে আমি যখন মফস্বলের কতকগুলি গ্রাম পরিদর্শন কোরছিলাম, তখন কতিপয় শিক্ষাব্রতী আমার নিকট উপস্থিত হোয়ে এই আবেদন জানিয়েছিলেন যে—আপনি আমাদের পক্ষ নিয়ে শিক্ষামন্ত্রীর নিকট আমাদের হোয়ে আমাদের অভাব অভিযোগগুলির বিবরণ উপস্থিত কোরবেন। এবং তারা আরো বোলেছিলেন যে—যদি তাঁর নিকট আমাদের দুঃখের কথা বিস্তারিত বিবৃত করা যায় তাহলে তিনি দয়াপরবশ হোয়ে আমাদের দুঃখ দূর কোরবেন। আমি তাদের আগ্রহের জন্যই প্রধান মন্ত্রীর নিকট বিবরণটী উপস্থিত কোরছি।

বাংলাদেশে প্রায় দেড় হাজার উচ্চ ইংরেজী বিদ্যালয় আছে। তার মধ্যে ৪৭টী গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিজের পরিচালিত; ৪৯৩টী স্কুলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আংশিক সাহায্য দিয়ে থাকেন। আর সব স্কুলগুলি গভর্ণমেণ্টের সর্ব্বপ্রকার সাহায্য হোতে বঞ্চিত। শুধু তাই নয়, উপরন্তু তারা গভর্ণমেণ্ট Inspector দের দ্বারা অশেষ রকমে লাঞ্ছিত হোয়ে থাকে। সে সব স্কুলের মাষ্টারদের বেতন ৩।৪।৫ মাস পর্য্যন্ত বাকি এবং ছাত্রবেতন এর চেয়েও বেশী বাকি। এত দুর্দ্দশা এবং দারিদ্রের মধ্য দিয়েও সেই সব শিক্ষাব্রতীরা যে সব স্কুলের কার্য্য পরিচালনা কোরে আসছেন সেখানে যখন Inspector সাহেব বা বাবুগণ পরিদর্শনের জন্য গমন করেন, তখন সেই যৎসামান্য আয় হতে তাঁদের ছোট জোগাতে অনেক পয়সা ব্যয় হয়। সে পয়সা জোগাড় কি সহজে হয়? হয় তো স্কুলের বেড়া ভেঙ্গে গিয়েছে, সেটা মেরামৎ করার জন্য বহু কষ্ট কোরে কিছু পয়সা জমা করা হোয়েছিলো, সেটা Inspector মহাশয়ের মনস্তুষ্টির জন্য ব্যয় হোয়ে যাওয়ায় বেড়া যেমন ভাঙ্গা ছিলো, সেই রকম ভাঙ্গাই রয়ে যায়। এবং ছাত্রদের মুক্তপ্রকৃতির ঘনিষ্ঠতর সান্নিধ্যের মধ্য দিয়ে শিক্ষালাভের বন্দোবস্ত চোলতে থাকে। এই প্রকারের যে দুর্দ্দশা এটা নূতন নয়, এবং দিনের পর দিন বেড়েই চোলেছে। এই দুর্দ্দশা দেখে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটু দয়াও হোয়েছিলো, এবং এডুকেশনের ব্যয় সঙ্কোচের জন্য তাঁরা একটী কমিটিও স্থাপন কোরেছিলেন। ঐ সব দরিদ্র শিক্ষকের উপর দয়াপরবশ হোয়ে সেই কমিটি সুপারিশ করেন যে শিক্ষাবিভাগের মোট ব্যয় থেকে ২৯ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়সঙ্কোচ করা যায়। কমিটি নির্দ্দেশ দিয়াছিলেন যে এই সব স্কুল Inspector এর জন্য যে প্রায় দশ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় এটা অপব্যয় ছাড়া আর কিছুই না। Inspector গণ শিক্ষকদের শিক্ষা কার্য্যে কোন নূতন প্রেরণা দিতে পারে না তাদের কোন আদর্শ শিক্ষাও দেয় না, তারা মাত্র স্কুলে যেয়ে দেখে চেয়ার টেবিল ঠিক আছে কিনা, এবং হিসাব পত্র ঠিক আছে কিনা এবং যেখানে দোষ ত্রুটি পায় সেখানেই গালাগালি দেয়। সুতরাং এই দশ লক্ষ টাকা থেকে টেনে বড় ৭ লক্ষ টাকায় নামানো যেতে পারে। তারা আরো সুপারিশ কোরেছিলেন যে ঐ সব বিদ্যালয়কে সাহায্য কোরতে হবে। কিন্তু টাকা আসবে কোথা থেকে? আমরা বাইরে থেকে টাকা আনতে যাচ্ছিনা, শুধু গভর্ণমেণ্ট Education বিভাগের যে সমস্ত Grant এ অতিরিক্ত অপব্যয় কোরছেন সেইগুলি কমিয়ে দিলেই টাকার ব্যবস্থা হয়। তাছাড়া বাংলা সরকার দুকোটি টাকা বেশী পেয়েছেন India Government এর কাছ থেকে। কিন্তু সে টাকা প্রজার অন্নবস্ত্র সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য ব্যয় হয় নাই, শিক্ষার জন্য অল্প টাকা বরাদ্দ আছে আমরা একথা জানি যে টাকাটা তাঁদের হাতে পোড়েছে, সেটা ইট পাথরেই ব্যয় করবার গভর্ণমেণ্টের ইচ্ছা কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমস্ত খেয়াল চরিতার্থ কোরতে দিয়ে দিয়ে তাঁদের কথিতমত Inspection Department এর ব্যয় সংক্ষেপ এখনো করা যেতে পারে। তারপর গভর্ণমেণ্টের পরিচালনাধীনে যে সমস্ত বিদ্যালয় আছে সেগুলিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের পরিচালনা থেকে রেহাই দিয়ে যদি অন্যান্য বিদ্যালয়গুলিকে উপযুক্ত মত সাহায্য করা যায় তাহলে খুব বড় একটা সমস্যার সমাধান হতে পারে। Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq সাহেবের বাজেটে দেখছি ৪৭টী গভর্ণমেণ্ট হাই স্কুলের জন্য ১৪,৪১,০০৪ টাকা ব্যয় হয় এবং ৪৯৩টী গভর্ণমেণ্ট সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত

স্কুলের জন্য ব্যয় হয় ৫,১০,০০০ টাকা মাত্র। সুতরাং ঐ ৪৭টী বিদ্যালয়কে যদি গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাত থেকে নিষ্কৃতি দিয়ে সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত বিদ্যালয়ের লেভেলে আনয়ন করি তাহলে দেখতে পাবো যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে যাদের সাহায্য করা হয় এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট সাহায্য থেকে বঞ্চিত যে এক হাজার স্কুল আছে সেই প্রত্যেক স্কুলকে টাকা দিতে হলে আমাদের খরচ হবে ২৮ লক্ষ টাকা। এবং সেই ২৮ লক্ষ টাকার স্থানে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ৪৭টী গভর্ণমেণ্ট হাই স্কুল আর ৪৩৯টী সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত স্কুলের জন্য খরচ কোরছেন প্রায় ২০ লক্ষ টাকা।

আমি আমার প্রস্তাবে যা বোলেছি ১৯২৪ সনে লর্ড লিটন তাঁর জলপাইগুড়ির বক্তৃতার মধ্যেও সেই কথাই বোলেছেন—

"We have rejected the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, so that this should not be done at once, but we recognise the force of the agreement which led the Committee to make this recommendation. We think the interest of education can best be served by encouraging local enterprise by grant-in-aid rather than by establishing more Government schools. We have, therefore, decided not to provincialise any more institutions and to prepare the way gradually for the deprovincialisation of those for which Government is at present wholly responsible."

তাছাড়া গভর্ণমেণ্টের কর্তৃত্ব থেকে স্কুলগুলিকে মুক্তি দেবার আরো কারণ আছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুলে ছাত্রদের প্রত্যেক কার্য্য, তাদের স্বাধীনতা উন্মেষে প্রতিবার বাধা দেওয়া হয়। গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুলগুলি একদিকে যেমন মোটা মাইনের মাষ্টারগণ কর্তৃক পরিচালিত, অপরদিকে গ্রামের সরকারী সাহায্য ব্যতীত স্কুলগুলিতে অভাবের তাড়নায় নৈতিক আদর্শ ক্ষুণ্ণ হয়ে যাবে। গ্রামের শিক্ষকেরা ছাত্রদের কি শিক্ষা দেবে? যাদের প্রত্যহ দুই রকমের খাতা- একটা Inspector দের পরিদর্শনের সময় দেখানর দরুণ আর একটা নিজেদের হিসাবের জন্য লেখা হয়ে থাকে, এবং ছেলেদের মাইনে ৮।১০ মাস বাকী থাকলেও খাতায় সে বাকী লেখবার উপায় নাই, এই যে দুর্নীতি প্রত্যহ শত শত ছেলের চোখের উপর অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে এতে কেমন করে পবিত্র আবহাওয়া বজায় রাখা যায়? মাষ্টার মহাশয় ৫০৲ টাকা মাইনে লিখে ৯০৲ টাকা নিচ্ছেন, এই যে মিথ্যাচার এর মূলে যদি কুঠারাঘাত না করা হয় তাহলে কিছুই হবে না। বিদ্যালয়ের এই আর্থিক দুর্নীতির জন্যই আদর্শবাদী শিক্ষকগণ ব্রত রক্ষা করিতে পারেন না।

এখন আমি বিশেষ বিশেষ scholarship ও stipend প্রভৃতি সম্বন্ধে কিছু বোলতে চাই। সাহায্য দানের বিবেচনার বিষয় হবে—বিদ্যালয়ের পরীক্ষার ফল, ছাত্রদের চরিত্র গঠণ, ও বিভিন্ন ছাত্রের দৈহিক ও মানসিক উন্নতি, কিন্তু বাজেটে দেখতে পাচ্ছি—৬০ হাজার টাকার বিশেষ বৃত্তির মধ্যে থেকে ৫০ হাজার মুসলমানদের দেওয়া হচ্ছে আর দশহাজার টাকা পাবে Schedule Caste এবং আর বাদ বাকি যারা আছে তারা। মুসলমানরা ৫০ হাজার পাক তাতে আমাদের আপত্তোর নাই কথা হচ্ছে Schedule Caste এবং আর সকলের ভাগ্যে মাত্র দশহাজার টাকার কৃপা বিতরণ কেন? তপশীলভুক্ত জাতিদের দারিদ্র্য মুসলমানদের চেয়েও যখন বেশী তখন তাদের জন্যও ৫০ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ হওয়া উচিত ছিল। আর একদল হিন্দু আছে যারা Schedule Caste এর মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয় নাই; অথচ যাদের সামাজিক ও অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থা Schedule Caste দের সম পর্য্যায় পড়ে, তাদের জন্য কোন Stipend এর বন্দোবস্ত করা হয় নাই। আমি আশা করি আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেই সমস্ত শ্রেণীর জন্য কিছু বন্দোবস্ত কোরবেন। তার পর সম্ভ্রান্ত বারেন্দ্র যে টোল আছে তার জন্য মাত্র দশ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। মাদ্রাসা ও মক্তবের

জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট হাজার হাজার টাকা খরচ করুন তাতে আপত্তি কোরবো না, কিন্তু আমাদের বক্তব্য এই যে আরো কিছু টোলপ্রথির জন্য ব্যয় করুন। দশ হাজার টাকা সমস্ত বাংলার টোলের জন্য অত্যন্ত কম হয়েছে। অন্ততঃ এক লক্ষ টাকা হওয়া প্রয়োজন।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, without moving the cut motion that stands in my name, I desire to draw the attention of Government to the immediate necessity for making provision for adult education in this province.

Sir, this is a question which is of burning importance at the present time. No responsible Government worth its salt can ignore a matter which strikes at the very root of its democratic existence. Democratic Government, to be honest must be based on mass opinion, for without it democrary is transformed into autocracy. Public opinion to be responsible, well directed and clear cut, must be founded on mass education. When democratic Government

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir. সভাপতি মহাশয়, গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষের কোন মেম্বর যদি বোলতে চান তিনি যে সমস্ত motion moved হোয়েছে তার উপর বোলতে পারেন, না নূতন একটা motion আনতে পারেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think there is a general misunderstanding. It should have been known by this time that it is not only the cut motions that are open to discussion but the whole demand under "Education" is open to discussion. So, the speakers are entitled to speak not only on the respective cut motions but to speak generally.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: সদস্য মহাশয় কি নূতন motion move কোরছেন, না যে motion moved হয়েছে সেইটা support কোরছেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not necessarily.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I was saying, Sir, when democratic Government in our country is still under the microscope, and when the future constitution of India is in the crucible, it is up to every Local Government to demonstrate its efficiency in a way consonant with its responsibilities. In order, therefore, that this should be effective, Government must have a real background of solid and crystallized public opinion. And this can only be achieved if public consciousness is aroused and the bulk of the mass educated. We hear of a persistent

demand for primary education. The whole country is clamouring for it in one voice. But in the exuberance of our demand we are apt to lose sight of a question which to my mind is of far greater importance. It is so in this sense, that the benefit that will accrue to the country from adult education will be immediate, whereas it will take us at least a couple of decades to profit out of primary education to children who will be citizens of the State twenty years hence. In the world of to-day when things are moving with a rapidity of motion that is breath-taking and when older ideas are yielding place to newer ones, we cannot afford to waste a span of time which might deal a death blow to the progressive advancement of this country. Furthermore, Sir, I make bold to say that, with the diffusion of whosesale adult education in the country, primary education is bound to follow in its wake without any great effort on the part of the Government. It, therefore, appears to me that by laying greater stress on the question of primary education and leaving adult education untackled, the Government are trying to put the cart before the horse.

Sir, it pains me to see the Government squander public money by doling out princely grants to educational institutions in the metropolitan cities of Calcutta and Dacca. Sir, you will pardon me if I say that I do not see eye to eye with a Government which call themselves responsible but which make provisions for palatial accommodation for boys in schools and colleges when the products of such institutions have to go back and live their respective terms of lives in grovels and huts. I ask you, Sir, in all seriousness what good does it do to them to spend a brief period of, say, 2 to 4 years in buildings of august appearance when most of them after their college career have to work with a miserable pittance and live in tin-shed houses, and when a very great majority of them cannot find the wherewithal to maintain their body and soul together?

Does it not necessarily follow, therefore, that Government should solve the acute problem of unemployment first, before trying to help educational institutions vie with one another in their effort to put Shah Jehan, of revered memory, to shame. Here again, may I once again say that it appears to me that the Government are trying to harness the horse behind the cart.

Sir, the question of the removal of illiteracy is not such a difficult one as it might appear at first sight. When the campaign for rural reconstruction was taken up in several districts of the province including that of mine, it occurred to me that no permanent or lasting benefit could result out of such a campaign unless and until the question of mass education was taken up first. This, to my mind, appeared to be the pre-requisite to any scheme of rural reconstruction. For you cannot have rural uplift unless you make the mass sufficiently educated to

realise the need for such uplift and make them properly acquainted with the principles of better living. Mere cutting down of jungles, construction of roads, filling up of ditches, and such like improvements to the countryside can be of no lasting avail unless the people who habitate the places have been inculcated with the principles of clean and hygienic living under good and sanitary housing conditions. I, therefore, approached the District Magistrate with a feasible scheme for removal of illiteracy. He very readily agreed to co-operate with me, and we jointly launched my scheme. Briefly put, my scheme consists of an attempt to remove the practice of putting thumb impression and make every adult individual to learn the alphabets and to write his name. This scheme has been published in several newspapers and so I need not explain the working details. We had a fortnight's drive which was known as "Anti-Thumb Impression Drive" and it produced results beyond our expectation. Our campaign will continue till we have in our district not a single illiterate male adult. May I request the Government to take up a provincial drive of this nature which might provide the foundation for adult education? What has been achieved in one district can surely be achieved in others

Now, Sir, I come to the question of provision of night schools for adults——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 under the head "37 Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of this cut motion is to raise a discussion about the grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for the education of scheduled castes in Bengal

Sir, since the inauguration of the new reforms in the Provincial Government the scheduled castes of Bengal had cherished in their heart of hearts this high hope that they would now be in a position to place all their legitimate grievances before the Government regarding their educational advancement. In the first budget of the present Government, we all know how the Hon'ble the Chief Minister came out with an insignificant sum of Rs. 30,000 for the education of the scheduled castes. And when that sum was considered to be very inadequate and insufficient to meet the demands of a crore of people in Bengal, there was great dissatisfaction not only among the scheduled castes members of this Assembly but throughout the length and breadth of the province. And most of the members of the scheduled castes who had joined the Coalition Party, broke away and joined the Opposition. The

Hon'ble the Chief Minister only to save the situation and to show the public that he had some sympathy for the scheduled castes, granted a lump sum of Rs. 5 lakhs at the suggestion of my honourable friend Mr. Monmohan Das of Mymensingh.

The scheduled castes were no doubt very glad to see the generosity of the Chief Minister. But the committee that was appointed to devise ways and means to spend this sum, and the way in which some portion of the money has been proposed to be expended for the education of the scheduled castes, gives rise to nothing but despair and dissatisfaction in their hearts.

First, Sir, the committee that has been appointed consists of the members who are mostly the supporters of the present Cabinet. And as such they cannot exercise their independence in the matter of expenditure of the money. My honourable friend Mr. Monmohan Das, at whose suggestion this Rs. 5 lakhs was granted, was not considered to be a fit person to be included in the committee simply because he had joined the Opposition. Most of the members on the committee do not enjoy the confidence of the scheduled castes at large.

Secondly, Sir, the recommendations these members have made to spend the Rs. 5 lakhs are partial and most objectionable and I am glad to see that the Government have not accepted them all. Now, Sir, coming to the suggestions of the committee we find that Rs. 1½ lakhs is proposed to be spent for building a hostel in Calcutta, Rs. 20 thousand for a hostel at Comilla and Rs. 30 thousand for a hostel at Barisal. On the other hand, the sum proposed to be spent for the stipends and scholarships for poor students and for the grant to the Middle English and High English Schools, purely managed by the scheduled castes, is very insignificant. The construction of a few hostel buildings in the distant corners of the province cannot surely be considered to be helpful to the cause of educational advancement of a vast community. What we are in urgent need of is the grant to schools organised by the scheduled castes, because they are managed with great financial difficulty and their failure would be imminent if no financial help be forthcoming. Next what we feel most is the help to the poor and meritorious and really deserving students who are so much handicapped to proceed on with their studies in schools and colleges in the different parts of Bengal. The committee in awarding stipends and scholarships have not done justice to many really deserving students.

I was told by some person in authority whose name I shall not disclose, that the scheduled castes do not really need so much money as has been granted, because a balance of Rs. 3 lakhs and 30 thousand is remaining unexpended for want of suitable scheduled caste students.

Sir, the grant from the State is needed most for those who cannot proceed on without the financial help. If the persons in authority say that Rs. 5 lakhs is not necessary for a crore of people, certainly, Sir, they are misinformed and they have no idea of the illiteracy that prevails among the scheduled castes. I personally know that every year hundreds of our boys are forced to leave their studies simply because due to the economic pressure their parents and guardians cannot pay a farthing to keep them in schools and colleges. The Education Department is not certainly aware of this vital matter.

Sir, when this Rs. 5 lakhs was granted, the scheduled castes hoped that it would be made an annual recurring grant. But under the circumstances its unspent balance of Rs. 3 lakhs 30 thousand has been kept, nobody can dream that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister would pay any more attention to the scheduled castes. Certainly the Chief Minister extended this grant to entrap some of the scheduled castes members in Opposition. But when he found that his party has otherwise been strengthened he no longer deemed it his duty to think for the scheduled castes.

Sir, I had this idea formerly that so long as the caste Hindus were in power politically, the legitimate demands of the scheduled castes would continue to be neglected by them. But now I find the Muslims being in the height of political power and authority have been behaving in the same way with the scheduled castes. And this reminds me of the old popular proverbial saying "Whoever goes to Lanka becomes a Ravan".

I distinctly remember the day at the time of the Round Table Conference in London when the minority communities of India had a pact among themselves regarding the safeguard of their respective communal interests. And I still remember how the Muslim Round Tablers showed keen interest and sympathy for the scheduled castes. Mr. M. A. Jinnah, the League President, even went so far as to say that "the Muslims are in a position to put up a fight for their legitimate claims, but the scheduled castes not being in such a position require more weightage". Now the Muslim supremacy is well established in Bengal and we expected justice would be done to the scheduled castes according to the terms of the minority community pact in London. But what we see here in Bengal? The Muslims only want to keep the Hindus in two different camps only to achieve their ends. It is a suicidal policy for the Muslims themselves. It would not certainly enhance their cause.

We scheduled castes are Hindus first and scheduled castes afterwards. We rise and fall with our Caste Hindu brethren. If

separate representation for us means no benefit to us, we should certainly want to have this invidious and artificial distinction among the Hindus removed.

Khan Sahib Maulvi AMINULLAH: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, মনে হয় মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে বহুবার স্পষ্ট ভাবে বুঝাইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে যে, বাংলার জনসাধারণ কি চায় এবং তাহাদের অভাব কোন কোন দিকে, কিন্তু ইহা সত্ত্বেও তাহারা যদি পূর্ব্বের ন্যায় লক্ষ্য না করেন তবে বাংলার ভাগ্য যে তিমিরে, সেই তিমিরেই থাকিবে। এবারকার Education বাজেট যেভাবে রচিত হইয়াছে তাহাতে ভুল যে মোটেই নাই, একথা স্বীকার করা যায় না। তবে উহা যে একেবারেই দেশের উপযোগী ও উপকারী হয় নাই তাহাও নহে। দোষ ত্রুটি মিলিত যে বাজেট রচিত হইয়াছে, উহার সম্বন্ধে আমি বৃথা আড়ম্বর না করিয়া শুধু এইটুকু বলি যে, উহা অপেক্ষা ভাল হইলে, আরও ভাল হইত। এবং উহাতে যে দোষ ত্রুটি আছে তাহা বিদূরিত হইলে অতি উত্তম এবং সর্ব্বাঙ্গীন সুন্দর হইত। Education বাজেট সম্বন্ধে আরও বলি যে, বহু লক্ষ টাকা এমন সমস্ত কার্য্যে ব্যয় করার জন্য ধরা হইয়াছে যে তাহা না করিয়া দেশের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয় করিলে অতি উত্তম হইত। তাহা হইলে বর্ত্তমান বাজেটের প্রস্তাবিত প্রায় ১ কোটি টাকা দেনার ভার গরীব দুঃখীর শোধ করিবার কষ্ট কথঞ্চিত স্বার্থক হইত। কাশিমবাজারের মহারাজার কলেজ ও বর্দ্ধমান মহারাজার কলেজ ইত্যাদি general শিক্ষার জন্য যে টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে উহা কমাইয়া অন্ততঃ ৫০,০০০৲ টাকা বাঁচাইবার ব্যবস্থা করা অতি সঙ্গত বলিয়া মনে করি। আমি আশা করি, মাননীয় বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এই সামান্য প্রস্তাবের প্রতি লক্ষ্য করিবেন। এই পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা এই সমস্ত বিভাগ হইতে আনিয়া তিনি যদি দেশের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয় করেন তবে দেশবাসী তাঁহার নিকট কৃতজ্ঞ থাকিবেন অথচ ইহা করিতে তাহার বেগ পাইতে হইবে না।

স্পীকার মহোদয়, বাজেটে বহুটাকা কলিকাতা এবং সহরতলীর বড়লোকদের ছেলেপেলের শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয়িত হইয়াছে। অনেক দেশের যে সব স্থান সরকারী সাহায্য পাইবার একান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় এবং যেখানে সাহায্য না পাইলে তাহাদের সত্যি ক্ষতি হয়, সেই সমস্ত স্থানে ছাগো নাম মাত্র ছিটে ফোটা ব্যতীত আর কিছুই জোটে নাই। সুতরাং এই বাজেট সর্ব্বসাধারণের নিকট নিন্দনীয়।

Sir, বাংলা দেশের একদল মোসলমান প্রাণের সহিত Revised স্কীম এর মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা চায়। বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় গত বৎসর যে কয়েক হাজার টাকা Revised মাদ্রাসা Education এর জন্য ব্যয় করিয়াছেন, তজ্জন্য তাঁহাকে আমি আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি। এবং আমি আশা করি বর্ত্তমান বৎসরেও তিনি Old Scheme মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার সুপরিচালনার জন্য অন্ততঃ ১ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিয়া মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে নবজীবন দান করিবেন।

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while opposing the motions for cut in the demand I would like to say something on the policy of the Government pursued so far with regard to primary education. Primary education is one of the burning questions of the day and it is the problem of all problems on the solution of which depends the future of Bengal as a whole and upon which the structure of the nation is to be built. There is a persistent demand from all quarters that free and compulsory primary education should be introduced throughout the province without any further delay.

In the absence of any better scheme and so long as new avenues are not explored for finding out necessary money for introducing free primary education without taxation, we must proceed with the existing Act without any hesitation

The insistent demand of the people has not been enough to make the Government rise up to the mark. I am always opposed to taxation specially upon those who cannot bear the burden, but at the same time I must make it clear that primary education (free and compulsory) must be introduced without any delay and at any cost. Those who advocate the cause of primary education without taxation suggesting no scheme for the purpose do not really mean to give education to the masses. They are raising only false hopes and trying to capture imagination of the people as a part of their political propaganda.

Now, Sir, the faltering attitude of the Government in this matter cannot be supported in any way. Having realised the crying need of primary education and having admitted that it cannot be introduced without taxation, I do not see any reason why the Government should wait for voluntary application for introduction of cess in the districts.

The attitude of the Government in this respect is viewed with suspicion and that too not without justification. On account of economic depression due to the flood last year Government suspended the operation of the Act in nine districts. But may I ask one question whether the Government did ever take that into consideration to remit rent of the poor tenants? Did the Government suspend any other taxation which directly affects the half-clad and ill-fed cultivators during the period? Whatever halting steps are being taken by the Government in this direction do not seem to be genuine. The Government on some plea or other are deferring the advancement of education for the masses. The introduction of free primary education without making it compulsory has no meaning at all. After the imposition of cess for primary education there cannot be any justification on the part of the Government in deferring to make it compulsory.

Declaration made by the Finance Minister as well as by the Education Minister on the floor of this House on previous occasions gave us a ray of hopes but, Sir, two years of our life have been lost in vain and it is deplorable that we have not advanced one step further. If things are allowed to such a pass, our remaining three years will also be equally barren.

Now coming to the actual figures, Sir, the same paltry amount of an additional grant of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided for primary education, in this budget as in that of last year. This additional grant of Rs. 5 lakhs will not be sufficient even for my district

Mymensingh alone. We have begun experimenting the Act in our district for the last two years. In our provisional scheme for the district we had to start about 2,700 schools which number must be raised to at least 4,000, if we mean to make the scheme compulsory. The amount available by taxation will only be a fraction of the cost necessary for the purpose. We have already started twenty-five hundred schools by this time, but for want of funds we have not as yet been able to start two hundred of the schools under the voluntary scheme. Representation after representation from the district school board, requests from the district representatives of this House on this behalf could not persuade the Government to make adequate grant to our district school fund to enable it to start the schools already in its scheme. In my opinion it is an unpardonable negligence on the part of the Government to fail to supplement the cess income of the district by necessary financial assistance to enable the school board to make provision for educating those who are being made to pay for the purpose.

One word more, Sir, and I have done. My request to the Government is to pluck up courage and rise to the occasion. The Government should take up the matter with that zeal and earnestness that it deserves. Circumspection is no doubt necessary and I venture to suggest that some amount of tenacity is also essential in such matters. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister who holds the Education portfolio must make a declaration on the floor of this House indicating a definite line of policy of the Government for introducing free and compulsory primary education throughout the province without waiting for voluntary application from any of the districts. Nothing less than that will satisfy the long-cherished desire of the people and the demand of this House.

Maulvi HAFIZUDDIN CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not desire to move the cut motion standing in my name, but I would like to take this occasion to say a few words on the introduction of vocational training in secondary schools.

Under the present educational system, we find that the Universities are producing B.A.'s, I.A.'s and Matriculates by their thousands without any training and knowledge for starting life independently. The lawyers are hard-hit by the general economic depression as well as by the enforcement of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, the operation of which, I think, should remain in force for some time more to liquidate the debts of the agriculturists. Hence the ordinary graduates do not risk to take up law as a course for profession. I.A.'s and Matriculates have no *locus standi* in any calling. This year, we understand, 45,000 candidates are going to appear at the Matriculation Examination

and the candidates for I.A.'s and B.A.'s are also likely to be several thousands without any definite idea for future course of life. Thus every year the question of unemployment is being accelerated by aimless education.

Sir, if statistics of the educated unemployed youths are taken, which the Government should take immediately, we will find about a million of our young men struggling between life and death. The energies of such a vast number, such a great force of the country, should not be allowed any longer to be wasted or unused. Such a loss should be considered a loss to the country—a loss to the nation.

I submit, Sir, this Government is not responsible for the action of the past Government in this direction, but now it is quite up to the State to tackle the problem of unemployment carefully. It should devise ways and means to utilise the nation's such great force in the industrial development of the country. To avoid the problem of further unemployment in future, I would suggest that the Government should induce the Universities to modify the present educational system in such a way that every student may earn something after his educational career

Sir, with the introduction of free primary education the tendency towards secondary education will greatly increase and the question of unemployment will then necessarily be more acute. So I would suggest, Sir, that technical classes be started in all secondary schools immediately. The boys in the schools be trained in the art of smithy, carpentry, pottery, weaving, dyeing, soap-making, umbrella-making or any other subject according to the needs and requirements of the locality along with general education. Thus we will find a good number of boys who do not go in for higher education in the general line earning their livelihood by means of the specialised vocational training which they will have in their secondary schools and it in this way a large number of young boys get settled in life the rush for higher education will diminish and the problem of unemployment will not be so acute as at present. On the other hand the really meritorious students, who may go in for higher education, will also find enough scope for employment

Maulana MD. ABDUL AZIZ: আমি প্রথমতঃ গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ কোরছি—সত্বর যাতে বাংলা দেশে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাটা প্রবর্ত্তন হয়, সে জন্য তাঁরা যেন খুব চেষ্টা করেন। প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমি আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টকে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিচ্ছি তারা যেন মক্তব মাদ্রাসার কথা না ভোলেন। এবং কোরাণী মক্তব ও হাফিজি মক্তবের কথা তাঁরা যেন স্মরণ রাখেন। যেহেতু এই বাংলার বুকে বহু কোরাণী মক্তব ও হাফিজি মক্তব আছে। সেখানে কোরাণ শরিফ কেরাতেও যেমন ভাল ভাবেই শিক্ষা দেওয়া হয়, অথচ তারা গভর্ণমেণ্ট হতে এক পয়সা সাহায্যও পায় না। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি এসব শিক্ষাকে কি গভর্ণমেণ্ট শিক্ষা

মনে মনে করেন না? অবশ্যই এসব মক্তবের শিক্ষাকে শিক্ষা বোলে তাদের মনে করা উচিত। কেন না শতকরা ৯০ জন মুসলমান কোরাণী মক্তব এবং হাফিজি মক্তব চায়। তারপর, আমি আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বোলছি—তারা যেন মাদ্রাসা সম্বন্ধে, বিশেষত old scheme madrassa সম্বন্ধে মনোযোগ দেন, বর্ত্তমানে বাংলা দেশে মাদ্রাসার সংখ্যা কম নয়, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট এদিকে একেবারেই নজর দিচ্ছেন না। আমরা গত বৎসর old scheme madrassas. সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কোরে বোলেছিলাম। আমাদের সেই চেষ্টার ফলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যা দিয়েছেন তা সামান্য। মাত্র ত্রিশ হাজার টাকা মাদ্রাসার জন্য কিছুই নয়। অতএব আমি অনুরোধ কোরছি তারা যেন Old Scheme Madrassa জন্য বেশী খরচ করেন। এই মাদ্রাসার জন্য একটা দারুণ অভাব বাংলা দেশে আছে। (From Congress Group: ভাল ভাতের চেয়েও? Noise & laughter.) যারা মুসলমান, যারা কালেমা পড়ে, যারা নিজেদের মুসলমানের ছেলে বোলে পরিচয় দেয়, তারা যেন না হাসে। (Member of the Proja Party: এ যে মস্ত বড় কথা হোয়ে গেলো) আমি গতবার মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রীসাহেবকে বলেছিলাম তিনিও স্বীকার কোরেছিলেন মোটা টাকার বরাদ্দ হওয়া উচিত। কেননা মাদ্রাসাগুলি ভালো রকম চালাতে পারলে পাড়াগাঁয়ে মুসলমানদের শিক্ষার পথ অনেকটা খোলসা হবে। আমি, আর একটা বিষয় মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিচ্ছি এ দেশে মাদ্রাসা পাশ করা শত শত মৌলবী সাহেব আছেন, তাহারা কোথাও চাকুরী পাচ্ছে না। কোন্ স্থানে তারা দাঁড়াবে, তার কোন সুবিধা নাই। এই সমস্যা সমাধানের বিষয়ে আমি একটা কথা বলেছি—এ দেশে যে চিকিৎসার কি দারুণ অভাব তা পাড়াগাঁয়ে যারা বাস করেন তারাই জানেন। যদি এইসব পাশ করা মৌলবী সাহেবদের জন্য একটা তিব্বিয়া কলেজ হয়, তাহলে তারা সেই কলেজ থেকে ভাল রকম চিকিৎসা বিদ্যা শিখে পাড়াগাঁয়ে ফিরে গিয়ে দরিদ্রদের পরম উপকার কোরতে পারবেন। সহরে যারা শিক্ষিত লোক তাদের এ বিষয়ে কোন অভাব নাই। (Noise and interruption.)

বাংলার মাদ্রাসাগুলির মা বাপ নাই, এদের interest রক্ষার জন্য বাংলার বুকে একটী দারুল উলুম অর্থাৎ আরবি ইউনিভারসিটি (Arabic University) স্থাপন করিতে আমি গর্বণমেণ্টকে বিশেষ অনুরোধ কোরছি। বিশেষ কোরে মুসলমান member দের আমি বোলছি। সকলেই মৌলবী সাহেবদের ফতোয়া দেখায়ে এখানে এসেছেন; কাজেই তাদেরে neglect কোরলে চোলবেনা। খৃষ্টানরা তাদের পাদ্রীদের সম্মান করে। আমাদেরও এই সব মৌলবী সাহেবদের সম্মান কোরতে হবে (Laughter) যারা মুসলমান হোয়ে এসব কথায় হাসে তাদের ভিতরে ইমান বোলে কিছু নাই—এ কথা আমি জোরের সহিত বোলতে পারি। MR. ZAMAN: তাহলে coalition দলের এক জনেরও ইমান নাই, কারণ তারা সবাই হাসছে)

(The member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Mr Speaker, Sir, although a motion stands in my name, I am not going to move it. I shall only speak to ventilate our grievances and have them remedied by the Government.

Sir, I think that this is the biggest amount ever provided in the budget under this head, for which I cannot but thank the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. But the distribution of the amount does not appear to me to be fair and equitable.

Sir, just at the outset I beg to assure the House that I have no quarrel with any community, I have no grudge against any provision made for any particular section of the people of this province. But I am only going to show that the amount which was provided for the education of the scheduled castes of the province is not sufficient for their demands and needs

Sir, for the education of the scheduled castes people only Rs. 55,000 in all has been provided in the budget, and the Hon'ble the Finance Minister also in his reply to the general discussion of the budget remarked that the amount was sufficient and adequate for the needs of the scheduled castes people. It may be true that the scheduled castes people are allowed to read in schools and colleges with all other communities, it may be true that they have not such grievances or disadvantages as the scheduled castes people of all the other provinces have But may I ask our Finance Minister here whether he has taken into consideration what resources they have? May I ask him whether he has taken into consideration the poverty of these people, their numerical strength and the sad plight of their education? I think if he had taken into consideration all these facts, he would not have made such a remark here Sir, everybody knows that the scheduled castes people are very poor, almost all the students reading in schools and colleges have some difficulties, either pecuniary or social. They are ill-fed, ill-dressed and are not properly supplied with their requirements. Due to all these difficulties the progress of their education is very slow —

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak something about primary education. The Primary Education Act was passed in the year 1930, but in attempting to find out means for imparting primary education without taxation the enforcement of the Act has been delayed. But now after exploring all avenues to see if the scheme of primary education was feasible without taxation, it has been conclusively proved that it is not feasible without taxation. But still the Government upstill now were hesitant in following a bold course in introducing primary education to give the masses the opportunities of learning the 3 R's.

There is still one school mostly in the Opposition who still advocate that primary education can be introduced without taxation. This plea is resorted to only to delay the introduction of primary education, and I think the sooner they are disillusioned the better for the country.

Sir, the Primary Education Act was enforced in the district of Mymensingh in the year 1938, but in spite of the imposition of the cess the fund received therefrom is quite inadequate. A sum of Rs. 3,60,000 is needed at least to make education free, but in spite of repeated demands the claim of Mymensingh in this respect has not been acceded to. But I am very sorry to say that Government are very callous and indifferent to the education of those who are mostly in need of it, viz., the rural people. I hope Government will come forward not only with this Rs. 2,60,000 for Mymensingh but also with requisite amounts for other places to make primary education free and compulsory.

Sir, another thing I want to emphasise before the Government is that Government are more alive to the need of higher education than that of primary education. This year also only a very small sum has been provided for primary education even for the districts where education cess has been imposed. So far as primary education is concerned, I think a better provision for it would not mean any sacrifice of the interest of higher education. Higher education is no doubt necessary, but without giving special stress upon higher education Government should at least divert greater attention to the cause of primary education, because it is the sacred duty of the State to provide primary education for its people.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to your ruling, I cannot move any of the cut motions which stand in my name. I, therefore, intend to speak on the subject now before the House. So, I shall dilate upon a few points one after another.

Regarding the capital grant to the Karatia College, I urge again, as I did during the general discussion on the Budget, that for the last two years we have been fighting for this most useful college,—to raise it to first-grade status and to provincialize it. A few hundred bighas of land have been given, and much money has been spent for it by our late Maulvi Wajed Ali Khan Panee of Karatia—may his noble soul rest in peace!

Sir, this institution is neither for any individual person, nor for any particular locality nor for any particular caste, or creed, or community, but for the people of all places and of all communities. Particularly, it is the shelter of the poor students of Bengal where they can find accommodation and where they can put up with on an unexpectedly minimum amount of expenditure. For this and other reasons, Sir, it has become a subject of all-Bengal questions. So, it is the country's demand now to enhance the grant made to this college to the fullest amount for which an estimate has been submitted, and to provincialise it as soon as possible and practicable.

My next point, Sir, is that "Agriculture" should be made a subject-matter of lesson in the free primary, secondary, adult, and night schools, and in high madrassahs also, just as History, Geography, etc. The people of the country, whether old, young, or of tender age, must be taught that a vast treasure of wealth lies half a cubit underneath the earth, that the application of good manure can enhance doubly the production of crops and consequently the wealth of the country, etc.

Text-books should be recasted and remodelled. Geography should be written specially dealing with the locality of each kind of crops produced for trades and from the commercial point of view. History need not be taught in almost all the classes from class III to class X, dilating upon the same matter again and again. Vocational and commercial education should be introduced, and due attention is to be given to them.

Text-books should not be altered whimsically or for some mercenary motive if they are not urgently required under different circumstances; otherwise poor Bengal will have to labour under a great hardship. Nay more, Sir, I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to consider if he can make provision to supply some important books published at Government cost to free primary school children or to their poor guardians, who belong mostly to the cultivating classes and who cannot spare enough money to purchase books for their boys and girls

The next point that I would urge is, Sir, that Arabic and Persian should be taught by different teachers in colleges and in high madrassahs

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since you now occupy the exalted position of the Vice-Chancellor of the well-renowned Calcutta University and as there is a sympathetic Education Minister in the person of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, who is also the Chief Minister of this province, I would draw your attention for seriously considering this point, because, Sir, you know that Persian is of Aryan origin, that Arabic is of Semitic origin, and that each has got its own vast literature. Their words are different, their grammars are different, and their ancient histories and cultures are different.

Sir, Arabic is immensely vast in its scope. Besides, Sir, Islamic religious lores, it contains the scientific, philosophical, historical, geographical, mathematical productions of the Muslim scholars all over the world. Persian also has got its vast literature. I do not grudge at all the fact that Bengali and Sanskrit are taught by different persons even though the subjects are allied, both being Aryan languages, embodying the same culture.

Under the circumstances, I beg to submit that, if forced to teach both the subjects, few people can do justice to both the subjects, for

human powers are limited. Sir, in that case a great injustice is done to the man who is forced to teach as well as to the students who are taught.

Then grants to madrassahs must be raised sufficiently and adequately. It is needless to mention that the madrassahs of Bengal always fight fiercely against illiteracy almost empty-handed. The teachers of the madrassahs are most poorly paid, the stipends and scholarships of the students are most insignificant, and their numbers are most hopelessly limited, while the scope of the successful students for useful service is very much narrowed down, without any prospective bright future. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether Muslim Bengal can legitimately claim that such and all other grievances of theirs would be remedied as early as possible?

In conclusion, with the poor financial condition of the madrassahs, I beg to remind you of the mismanagement and maladministration of the wakf estates and the Wakf Board also. I fear the Wakf Board is doing a great disservice to the Muslim community. I know of certain wakf estates in Tangail which are managed by some non-Muslim naibs and managers, nominally responsible—or not responsible at all—to the so-called indifferent mutwallis, who are perhaps incompetent and inefficient for the purpose. Does the Wakf Board care a little for that? No.

Regarding free and compulsory primary education and adult education, Sir, I submit, —

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the illiteracy of Bengal is one of the seven wonders of the world. After about 175 years of British Administration and almost two years of provincial autonomy, 91 per cent. of the people of the province are still illiterate; and they are the poor tillers of the soil who practically form the nation. "To educate the people is the first and foremost duty of a national Government" said Napoleon.

Now let us see how far our Government have performed their duty in this respect. From the budget estimate, it will be found that Rs. 1,53,56,000 has been allotted for "Education—General", while Rs. 2,14,55,000 for "Police Administration," that is, more than double of what is allotted for "Education." This shows our national Government's deep and great love for the education of its people, the nation!

Then again, Sir, another point for consideration is this, though not more than ten per cent. of the population of Bengal receives University

and secondary education Government allotted nearly Rs. 75 lakhs for University and secondary education while only about Rs. 34 lakhs for primary education, although primary education is the crying need of the nation and about 90 per cent. of the population will be benefited by primary education.

Another matter for consideration is this, Sir, that the University and secondary education is made too costly for the poor people for the following reasons: (1) the tuition fees are very high, (2) the price of text-books is abnormally increased, and (3) the text-books are changed in every class for nothing every year though some text-books such as Mathematics, Algebra, Geometry, History, Geography and Grammar do not always require such constant changes in class after class.

Thus the educational institutions have become more professional than educational.

So, I respectfully beg to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble the Education Minister to take note of this, to devise ways and means, to rectify these malpractices of changing books in class after class and minimising the cost of education.

A few more words with regard to the policy of Government about primary education and then I shall finish. After hearing loud cries from all sides of the House, Government have recently taken up the problem of primary education, and we thank Government for that. But Government are going to make primary education free but not compulsory. The people of the rural areas are so insensible to the importance of education that they will not send their boys and girls to schools unless and until Government make primary education not only free but compulsory also. So, the people will pay education cess but will not receive primary education. Hence, Government should make primary education compulsory also without delay.

Last but not the least important point for consideration of the House with regard to primary education is the policy of Government with regard to primary education where the Rural Primary Education Act is given effect to, and I particularly know this from my experience of my district of Tippera.

Government ask the local people to build school buildings measuring 40 × 11 cubits according to the new scheme with corrugated iron at their own cost and take an agreement from them that if they can erect the school building, then Government would make the usual grant, otherwise not. Of course, in some place, the local people do this with much difficulty, but in many places the people cannot do it for want of fund though they are really very eager to have primary education. Government are not willing to grant the usual aid if the people erect straw built school *ghars* measuring the same length and breadth.

This is a very bad policy for a national Government. It is the duty of Government to bear the cost of primary education in erecting school *ghars* and in paying the teachers their salaries. So, Government should allow the local people to start primary schools in straw-built *ghars* so long as Government are not in a position to bear these expenditures. Education cannot be stopped, and the people should not be deprived of having primary education till they are able to build school buildings. It is absurd, Sir, that Government should ask the people to erect Secretariat buildings for schools and make it a condition precedent to their granting aid.

So, I draw the special attention of the Hon'ble the Education Minister to this matter, to change this bad policy and allow the local people to start schools in straw-built *ghars* where they are unable to erect corrugated iron houses.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 14th of March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 220 members

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Continuance of additional import duties on foreign salt.

*183. **Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department aware—

(*i*) that since an additional import duty on foreign salt was imposed by the additional Import Duty Act (1931) of the Government of India, several Bengali concerns have been started in Bengal for the revival and development of indigenous salt industry;

(*ii*) that the said additional import duty was discontinued by Government of India on the 30th April, 1938;

(*iii*) that before the said discontinuance there was a feeling all over Bengal demanding continuance of the said additional import duty for the purpose of protecting indigenous salt industry; and

(*iv*) that copies of resolutions passed in public meetings making that demand in all the subdivisions of this province were sent to Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government moved the Government of India to continue the said additional import duty on foreign salt?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that since the discontinuance of the said duty with effect from 1st May, 1938, foreign salt is being dumped into Bengal;

(*ii*) that according to the report of joint enquiry made by Messrs. Mukherjee and Rao, under Government orders, the minimum economic *ex*-boat price of Bengal salt is approximately Rs. 50; and

(*iii*) that the first consignment of foreign salt was sold at Rs. 41 per one hundred maunds in July, 1938, and that since then the price has gradually come down to Rs 24 in January, 1939?

(*d*) Do the Government propose to move the Government of India to reimpose an additional import duty on foreign salt to protect the indigenous salt industry?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take to protect the indigenous industry?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut): (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) Yes

(*iv*) Copies of resolutions on the subject passed in public meetings in important centres of the saliferous districts were received by Government.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration This Government addressed the Bombay, Madras and Sind Governments for their views The views of the Government of Madras are still awaited

(*c*) (*i*) There was a great increase in import of foreign salt

(*ii*) The price of factory salt landed at Calcutta by factory boats is estimated to vary between Rs. 45-12 and Rs 61-12 per 100 maunds during the first 5 years

(*iii*) The price *ex*-ship for Port Said Crushed was Rs 42 in July, 1938, Rs. 35 in October, 1938, and is now reported to be Rs. 32 per 100 maunds.

(*d*) The hon'ble member is referred to the reply to part (*b*) of the question.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: With reference to (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the matter is under consideration of the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: For some time.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: My question is—when did the Government take up consideration of this matter—12 days, 13 days or two months?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are considering the fact that the salt industry of Bengal requires protection?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: I have already said, the matter is under consideration

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the idea of considering the question of salt industry has penetrated into the brain of the present Ministry?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order I cannot allow this question.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered the fact that the enterprisers of salt industry in Bengal are suffering losses by manufacturing salt owing to the abnormally low price of foreign salt?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: It is perhaps so.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government intend to take up to protect the indigenous salt industry?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: The whole thing is under the consideration of Government and at the present moment, I am not in a position to state what steps Government propose to take.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what answer, if any, has as yet been received from the Government of Bombay in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: This Government have received a reply from the Government of Bombay stating that in case this Government is in favour of imposition of this duty, they would help us.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government of Bengal have expressed their own views to other Governments?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the views of this Government which were communicated to other Governments?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: It is confidential and I cannot divulge this to the House.

New recruitments to the public services.

***184. Mr. SADARUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, the Government have taken to give effect to the recommendation of the Bengal Legislative Assembly regarding the new recruitment to the Public Services according to the various percentages suggested by the Assembly for different communities in the last session?

(*b*) If no action has yet been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability—

(*i*) of giving immediate effect to the recommendation of the Assembly; and

(*ii*) fixing the percentage of appointments for different communities in district offices in proportion to the population of the district?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) and (*b*) Government have had the matter under consideration and it is expected that a decision will be announced shortly.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government are going to carry out the wishes of the legislature as expressed in the resolution relating to the percentage of appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That question does not arise.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir. It is for the learned Speaker to say whether the question arises or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that is not a question for information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government think it desirable to fix the percentage as a result of the resolution passed at the last Assembly meeting?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That question does not arise.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government think it desirable to give effect to the resolution regarding the fixation of percentage of appointments as passed in the last Assembly session?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Government considered the desirability of fixing a percentage.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: That is not the answer, Sir

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FALUL HUQ: More than that I cannot say.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was your question?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: My question was that according to the spirit of the resolution that was passed in the last Assembly session, Government certainly desired to fix a percentage, but whether they proposed to fix that percentage according to the resolution?

(No answer.)

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the conference that he said would be called was called to decide the question of percentage?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

District School Board, Mymensingh.

*185. **Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that it has been estimated that the District School Board, Mymensingh, needs at least Rs. 3 lakhs annually as a subsidy from Government in addition to its income from education cess and taxes and the present Government grant for primary education in the district;

(*ii*) that the District School Board, Mymensingh, asked for Rs. 2 lakhs from Government for the year 1938-39; and

(*iii*) that Government held it up till December, 1938, and finally granted only Rs. 60,000?

(*b*) Has the Hon'ble Minister considered the question that unless Government grant Rs. 2 lakhs for the district of Mymensingh for the year 1938-39 and Rs. 3 lakhs for the year 1939-40 the entire Free Primary Education Scheme is likely to be brought to a standstill?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of supplementing the income of the District School Board from education cess and thereby helping the public in getting the full benefit of the free scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes

(*iii*) The question of allotment has not yet been finally decided.

(*b*) and (*c*) I shall always be prepared to consider the reasonable demands of the District School Board, so far as funds permit

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the allotment has been finally made by now?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that according to the resolution passed by the District School Board, Mymensingh, the teachers will be appointed on religious or population basis and whether the resolution has been given effect to?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise here?

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: In view of the fact that resolution has been passed that teachers should be taken according to population basis—

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*a*) (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the allotment will be finally decided?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: After this answer was decided upon funds have been allotted to three different districts of which Mymensingh is one.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount that has been allotted for the district of Mymensingh for the year 1938-39?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not at the present moment in a position to say the exact amount, but I believe the amount will be near about what the District School Board wants.

Realisation of rents by certificate procedure.

***186. Maulvi ABDUL JABBAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that rents are being realised from the tenants by the certificate procedure?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for realising rents from the tenants by certificate procedure?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that the Government stopped the procedure for a period of two years from Baisakh, 1345?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) and (*b*) The privilege of certificate procedure conferred on private landlords under section 158A of the Bengal Tenancy Act was withdrawn by the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act of 1938 with effect from 18th August, 1938. Certificates filed by the privileged landlords which were filed prior to that date have to be executed.

Filing of fresh certificates for realisation of rent in Government and Court of Wards estates was suspended from 1st Baisakh, 1345 B.S., but certificates filed before that date have to proceed according to law.

Accordingly, barring the pending cases referred to above, certificate procedure has not been applied for the realisation of rents from tenants except as a corollary to the process of recovery of arrears of cesses due to District Boards under the Garnishee system or under section 99 of the Cess Act.

(*c*) Yes, so far as realisation of rent (and not cesses) in Government and Court of Wards estates is concerned.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the estate of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad is exercising the privilege of the certificate procedure?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The estate of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad is governed not by the ordinary law but by the Murshidabad Estates Act of 1891 and in that Act it is especially laid down that the dues should be realised as a public demand.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that most of the tenants of the Nawab Bahadur's estate suffer in view of the exercise of certificate procedure?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government do not think so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in a number of cases one year's rent sent by the tenants has been refused and certificate procedure has been adopted by the manager of the estate in spite of the fact that there was flood in that area and therefore they could not pay?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government have no information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government are considering the desirability of enquiring into the matter, so that the District Magistrate of Murshidabad may be given necessary instructions?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Most certainly.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the fact that private landlords have been deprived of the right of certificate procedure, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of writing to the Nawab Bahadur's estate to discontinue the certificate procedure?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the district of Rangpur in two or three estates the certificate procedure is still allowed?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that wherever Proja Movement is carried on, certificates are issued in hundreds?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: That is not a fact.

Grievances of Sub-Inspectors of School.

***187. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that the Sub-Inspectors of Schools are not provided with

(1) free quarters, and

(2) peons;

(*ii*) that the Auditors of the Co-operative Department, Sub-Inspectors of Excise, Veterinary Assistants and some other officers of similar and inferior ranks are provided with

(1) free quarters, and

(2) peons; and

(*iii*) that Mr. E. Biss, I.E.S. (retired), recommended

(1) Rs. 10 for free quarters, and

(2) Rs. 8 for a peon per month, respectively, for each officer?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of giving effect to the recommendations of Mr. E. Biss?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that an allowance at the rate of Rs. 50 per month in the river districts was sanctioned by the Director of Public Instruction in his letter No. 1891Ac., dated the 21st March, 1933;

(*ii*) that it has been withheld;

(*iii*) that a 10 per cent. cut has also been made on their existing allowance;

(*iv*) that outsiders are often appointed direct to the posts of District Inspectors in preference to experienced Sub-Inspectors of Schools; and

(*v*) that the work of these officers has increased with the introduction of free primary education?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of redressing the grievances of the Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) (1) So far I am aware, the officers mentioned are not provided with free quarters.

(2) Yes.

(*iii*) Mr. Biss suggested a house allowance of Rs. 10 and a peon on Rs. 12 a month for Sub-Inspectors.

(*b*) Not at present.

(*c*) (*i*) The Director of Public Instruction's letter quoted referred to administrative approval only. The allowance was not sanctioned by Government.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) Outsiders are rarely appointed direct to the posts of District Inspectors of Schools.

(*v*) Their work has not increased much, in view of the better distribution of good schools and consequent disappearance of inefficient ones under the new scheme.

(*d*) Government are not aware that Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools have any grievance.

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government do not think that Sub-Inspectors of Schools have to undergo great hardship for want of peons?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: How am I to know? Government have no information.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion. You have got the facts.

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Will the Government be pleased to state when they are going to give effect to the recommendation of Mr. E. Biss?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice

Mortality amongst labourers of Darsana Sugar Mills, Nadia.

***188. Maulvi AFTAB HOSSAIN JOARDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state how many deaths have occurred amongst the labourers of the Darsana Sugar Mills at Darsana in the district of Nadia since its foundation?

(*b*) How many workers have been sent to hospitals up till now?

(*c*) How many workers have received compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

(*d*) Have the above mills come under the Indian Factories Act? If not, why not?

(*e*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the river flowing by the mills is being polluted with discharge from the mills;

(*ii*) that there have been cases of cholera in the locality;

(*iii*) that a death has occurred in Chuadanga Hospital of a worker; and

(*iv*) whether any prosecution has been launched on this account?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Two, so far as Government is aware.

(*b*) One case has come to the notice of Government.

(*c*) Two

(*d*) Yes, on the 3rd February, 1939

(*e*) (*i*) Precautions have been taken to avoid pollution.

(*ii*) A few cases have occurred.

(*iii*) Yes, a man named Shib Chandra Biswas died in the Chuadanga Hospital being knocked down by an engine on the railway line laid out by Messrs. Carew & Co.

(*iv*) Yes, the driver of the engine has been prosecuted for rash and negligent driving on police report under section 304(A), Indian Penal Code.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: এ পর্য্যন্ত কতজন কলেরায় মারা গেছে?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: A few cases of cholera have occurred.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি সেখানে কোন প্রফিলেক্টিক কলেরা ইনোকুলেশনের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The question might, I think, be referred to my honourable colleague who presides over the Public Health Department.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken to avoid the pollution of the water in the river?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not exactly remember the number of the question but yesterday the Hon'ble Minister who presides over the Public Health Department gave an adequate reply in that respect.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the factory at Darsana actually began crushing cane, when they actually began operating, and what were the reasons for the delay in bringing the factory under the Factories Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answers (*a*) and (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether the Government have made any enquiry to ascertain the actual number of deaths and the actual number of persons who were sent to hospital?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If Governmeent had not made the enquiry, Government could not have given these figures.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the prosecution ended in conviction or acquittal?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware whether the prosecution has ended at all

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any death has occurred from cholera in that place?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware of it.

Providing waterways on the Kalukhali-Bhatiapara and Madhukhali-Kumarkhali railway line, Eastern Bengal Railway.

***189. Alhadj CYASUDDIN AHMED CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(i) that the railway embankment of the Kalukhali-Bhatiapara and Madhukhali-Kumarkhali branches of the Eastern Bengal Railway have inadequate number of waterways;

(ii) that damage is caused to the properties of the villagers by flood every year; and

(iii) that repeated petitions have been sent to the Government since 1936?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

(*c*) If no action has been taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) (*i*) The matter is under investigation.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Some representations have been received.

(*b*) A committee has been appointed by Government to investigate the question of the adequacy or inadequacy of the existing waterways.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the committee referred to in (*b*) was appointed and what were the terms of reference thereto?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: The committee was appointed very recently and the terms of reference were to look into the question of suitability or otherwise of the existing culverts and bridges in the railway branch line referred to.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the members of that committee?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am sorry I cannot give all the names but I believe among them there are the Collector, representative of the Eastern Bengal Railway and a representative of the Irrigation Department.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government were aware of the fact why no action was taken before this committee was appointed?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I don't quite follow the question Government have taken action immediately after the matter was brought to the notice of Government.

Inquiry about Dr. A. M. Mallik.

*180. **Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** (*a*) With reference to Notification No. 497 Com. of the 13th February, 1939, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, of the 16th February, 1939, Part I, page 324, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether Dr. A. M. Mallik selected in the panel of members representing the workers in the Conciliation Board for Railways is the same Dr. A. M. Mallik who has been selected also as a member of the Board of Economic Enquiry representing Labour?

(*b*) If so, what Labour Union does he represent?

(*c*) Was any registered Trade Union in Bengal invited to select a member for the Board of Economic Enquiry?

(*d*) How long is Dr. Mallik connected with Labour Union?

(*e*) Is it a fact that one M.L.C. and three M.L.A's have been selected to serve as members of the Board of Economic Enquiry?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no Labour M.L.A. was selected in preference to a non-M.L.A. to represent the Labour?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) I understand that this is so.

(*b*) President, Indian Quarter Masters' Union from 1936; President, National Port Trust Employees' Union, 1939; and Vice-President, Calcutta Dockers' Union, 1937.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) *Vide* answer to (*b*).

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) I have exercised my discretion in the best interests of the Board.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে বোলবেন কি কেন labour সদস্যদের এ বিষয় consult করা হয় নাই?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I think I have answered the question. I have said that I have exercised my discretion in the best interests of the Board.

Bata menace to Indian shoe industries.

*191. **Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department aware—

(i) that a large number of people of the province are employed in private shoe industrial concerns; and

(ii) that this indigenous industry has for some time past been affected by the rapid spread of Bata shoe concerns here and there?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take to save this indigenous industry from the Bata menace?

(*c*) If no steps are intended to be taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The small indigenous shoe industries have, to a certain extent, been affected by the large sale that Bata shoes are commanding in the market largely on account of their cheapness.

(*b*) and (*c*) The Bata Shoe Company have not been given any special facility by Government either in respect of manufacturing of shoes or their sale. The competition that they are carrying on with other shoe concerns is fair and open. Their real advantage lies in their large capital, mature experience in the line, and their most up-to-date machinery and almost automatic process of manufacture which keep their cost of production to a very low level and thus enable them to sell their products very cheap. I can think of no legitimate step that I can take to stop this. The only remedy that suggests itself to me is to develop our own shoe industries on modern lines so as to enable them to stand competition with the Bata Shoe Company and similar other large concerns. So far as the Industries Department is concerned, we are doing everything possible to afford training to our men in the most up-to-date processes of tanning and shoe-making and in the use of modern machinery. The provision of capital and the organisation of large indigenous concerns to compete with firms like the Bata Shoe Company both in manufacture and in retail trade is, however, primarily a matter for private enterprise. Government would be glad to give every encouragement to the formation of such concerns.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answers (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bata Shoe Company has been given any facility by Government?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: As far as I am aware, we have not given any special facility.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the policy of Government for protecting the indigenous shoe industry when it is on the verge of being crushed by foreign competition?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I would request my honourable friend to wait till to-morrow.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it necessary that Government should restrict the activities of the Bata Shoe Company and such other foreign companies by legislation?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: No.

Grant of a lakh of rupees to the District School Board, Dacca.

*192. **Mr. S. A. SALIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether five lakhs of rupees provided in the current year's Budget have been distributed?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the distribution district by district?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government have agreed to give a lakh of rupees to the Dacca District School Board?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Dacca District School Board has not got adequate funds at their disposal to proceed with their scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) to (*c*) The distribution is still under consideration.

(*d*) Yes. All the other District School Boards in the province are in the same position.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that the Government by letter No. 6741G. of the Director of Public Instruction promised a lakh of rupees to the District School Board of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Whatever promise may have been made will be fulfilled.

Platforms in the Magistrates' Courts, Khulna.

*193. **Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that the Subdivisional Officer's Court and other Magistrates' Courts at Khulna Sadar have no platform for the convenience of the Bar?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The lack of platform for lawyers does not appear to have caused any serious inconvenience hitherto and no formal complaint has been received from the Bar on this account.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the district authorities of Khulna have been consulted and their opinion taken as to whether there is any inconvenience or not?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government supply this sort of information after consulting the local officers. This information is based on facts and not on imagination.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: I am sorry, I have been misunderstood. But will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Officer has given any opinion as to whether there is any convenience or not?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir, my reply is based on the opinion of the District Officer.

Stoppage of Grants-in-aid to some High Schools in Bengal.

***194. RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the high schools in Bengal that were deprived of Government grant-in-aid since 1930, mentioning in each case the year from which it was in enjoyment of such aid and the alleged ground of withdrawal of aid?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of re-examining and revising the orders under which the said schools were deprived of their aid and particularly the cases where they were so deprived, not for any educational reasons or non-compliance with conditions imposed by the grant, but simply for their inability to carry out the orders made by the District or Subdivisional Magistrate?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that renewal of grant-in-aid of all high schools, outside Calcutta, depends on the approval of their Managing Committee by the District Magistrates;

(*ii*) that high schools in Calcutta are not subject to such non-educational authorities?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that no reason or ground has to be stated by the District Magistrate in disapproving of the constitution of the Managing Committee of an aided school even where the committee is constituted in accordance with the Revised School Code of the Calcutta University;

(*ii*) that the District Magistrate sometimes disapproves, without stating any grounds of members who have been duly elected by representatives of parents and guardians in accordance with the Revised School Code and insists on election of other members in their places; and

(*iii*) that if such orders of the District Magistrate are not carried out, the school has to forfeit the Government aid?

(*e*) What are the reasons that educational grants to high schools are not made solely in accordance with the discretion of the Education Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) The amount of labour and time involved in collecting the information is not thought commensurate with the advantage likely to accrue from the information.

(*b*) In view of reply to (*a*) above, this question does not arise. If the ground of complaint is subsequently removed and money is available a grant is given to a school in the usual course.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes, it is laid down in the grant-in-aid rules that the constitution of a committee requires the approval of the District Magistrate in order to qualify for a grant-in-aid and that it will be the duty of the District Magistrate to ascertain before giving approval that all communities living in the locality have been properly represented.

(*ii*) Yes, it is laid down in the rules that in the case of boys' and girls' schools in Calcutta, the functions of the District Magistrate will be exercised by the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, and the Inspectress of Schools, Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, respectively.

(*d*) (*i*) There is nothing in the grant-in-aid rules on this point. But the District Magistrate is ordinarily expected to state the reason or ground for his disapproval.

(*ii*) I am not aware of any such case.

(*iii*) The approval by the District Magistrate of the Managing Committee of a school outside Calcutta is necessary for a new grant or for the continuance of an existing grant.

(*e*) As a matter of administrative convenience Government have conferred these discretionary powers upon the District Magistrates.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to order the correction of the heading of this question before it goes into official record as it might lead to confusion of the future generation? The question deals with high schools and not with Government schools.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: This headline is not due to my fault, but of the department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will see to it

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whose advantage or disadvantage is contemplated here?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The public

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the advantage of the schools affected by such orders?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if the grant-in-aid ceases for non-compliance, how can the ground of complaint which may not be removed now be considered a sufficient ground for discontinuance of the aid?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have nothing further to add to the answer I have given

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate is competent to disapprove any Managing Committee or the election of any member to the Managing Committee on any ground other than the ground of proper representation of the different communities on the committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is laid down in the rules; I cannot say more than that.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: With regard to answer (*d*) (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he thinks it desirable to issue a circular to the District Magistrate to state the reasons for his disapproval of any committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think we should better leave it to the discretion of the District Magistrate.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the District Magistrate of Tippera disapproved the election of one gentleman who was elected thrice by the parents and guardians, on the ground that he had instituted a civil suit against an officer of the Crown?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not prepared to accept the truth of this allegation.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think it is necessary.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, as a responsible member of this House, I make the statement that what I have stated is true.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister got the courage to enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have got the courage, but at the same time I have got the good sense to accept truth as truth, and not lies as truth.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir. An honourable member from this side has stated a fact and has appealed to the Hon'ble Minister to make an enquiry. Is it proper and is it permissible for the Hon'ble Minister to say that it is a lie without holding any enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have never said that it is a lie, but I have said that I have the courage to say that a lie is a lie.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I think you are responsible for all these troubles. If you had not interfered at a stage when the question was put, probably the Prime Minister would not have got provoked and would not have answered in the way he did, the implication of which, however, he has modified in his subsequent answer. All I say is that it is not desirable in this House that any one should cast an aspersion on another. I hope Dr. Sanyal will desist from giving any provocation to any member of the House which might drive the latter to further provocation.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, having regard to the rule of which he has made mention in his answer (c)(i), if the District Magistrate disapproves the election of any committee or the election of any member to a committee on any ground other than that of proper representation of different communities on the committee, that will be valid?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a purely theoretical proposition. You merely ask what will be the position in case certain things happen. The question does not require an answer.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: May I submit my point, Sir? The Hon'ble Minister refers to a rule. The answer given here contemplates a definite rule. So far as I know, that rule does not contemplate disapproval on any other ground except the ground of improper representation to different communities. Therefore, I am putting this question whether if the District Magistrate disapproves of the election from any community on any other ground, will that disapproval be valid?

Mr. SPEAKER: Everybody can answer that question. You yourself are supplying the answer. Under the rules the constitution of a committee approved on grounds other than that of proper representation of different communities is not contemplated. Is not that so?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Yes, that is so.

Mr. SPEAKER: Therefore your question is whether any such disapproval on other grounds is beyond the purview of the rules. Is not that so?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then you should put your question in the correct form.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: All right, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that District Magistrates do disapprove of election from communities on grounds other than that of proper representation?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is a hypothetical question, and I am sorry I cannot answer it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your contention is that the constitution of a Managing Committee can be disapproved by the District Magistrate on the ground that representation of different communities is not there.

Now, the question should be: are you aware that District Magistrates have disapproved of the constitution of a committee on grounds other than what are contemplated in the rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware of that, Sir.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire about it?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: How can I do it throughout Bengal?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Not throughout Bengal but with reference to my question?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I can enquire if the honourable member would give me a specific case.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: All right. Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire into the case of the Baranagore Victoria High English School and the circumstances in which the school was deprived of the grant?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If the question is properly put, I will answer it.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: With reference to answer (*d*)(*iv*), where the Hon'ble Minister says "I am not aware of any such case" in reply to the question relating to cases where District Magistrates have disapproved of Managing Committees on grounds other than proper representation, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that, as a matter of fact, the University has addressed several letters to Government on this subject pointing out specific cases where District Magistrates have gone beyond the rules and that up till now no replies have yet been received from Government? Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire about it?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will make an enquiry.

Agricultural loans to flood-affected people of Khulna Sadar.

***195. Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware -

(*i*) that the flood-stricken people of the Khulna Sadar have been unable to procure seeds for sowing;

(*ii*) that representatives from several villages have been sent to the authorities for agricultural loans?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of placing further funds at the disposal of the District Officer to cope with the situation?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) It is not clear what seeds are referred to, but it is true that the people of the flood-affected areas require further agricultural loan to enable them to cultivate *aus* paddy and jute

(*ii*) Villagers themselves did approach the authorities frequently to ask for loans during and just after the floods, but during the last two months such requests have been remarkably few.

(*b*) Yes. A further sum of Rs 40,000 was placed at the disposal of the Collector on 3rd March, 1939, for immediate distribution and further amounts will be sanctioned as necessary.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the District Relief Committee of Khulna have closed their business, and will he be pleased to ask them not to do so in view of the answer given?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, the District Relief Committee is a voluntary organization over which Government have no control

Erection of sheds between Muktear and Bar Libraries at Khulna Sadar.

***196. Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware

(*i*) that the Muktear Library and the Bar Library at Khulna Sadar are at a distance from the Magistracy; and

(*ii*) that there are no sheds connecting those libraries with the Court buildings of the Collectorate?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of erecting connecting sheds?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) No. The distance is only about 100 cubits

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*a*) (*i*).

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Flood in Murshidabad.

61. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what steps were taken by the Government for preventing the last flood in Murshidabad;

(*ii*) what has been the effect of the said flood, namely, how many huts have been demolished and how many acres of crop-grown land have been inundated, in the said district;

(*iii*) what steps have been taken by the Government for the rebuilding of the said huts; and

(*iv*) whether any steps were taken for supply of seedlings for cultivation in the flood-affected areas in the said district?

(*b*) Has any remission of rent dues including *patni* and *darpatni* and revenue been granted in respect of the inundated areas of the said district?

(*c*) Have all the lands which were flooded been brought under cultivation in the said district?

(*d*) What steps, if any, are in contemplation for preventing such floods in future?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) The general flooding in the Murshidabad district was caused by the abnormal floods in the Ganges and its distributaries which spilled over their banks and flooded the country. Floods of this nature and magnitude are not preventible in the sense that all the water will be confined within the channels of the rivers. But flood warnings were communicated to the authorities concerned as occasion arose. Where there are embankments they were maintained and watched, so that there was no breach causing further flooding in consequence in the protected areas.

(*ii*) A very disastrous effect was caused by the last flood; as many as 27,560 huts were demolished (and 36,304 were damaged) and about 682,888 acres of land were inundated, roughly four-fifths of which constituting 546,310 acres were crop-grown land.

(*iii*) Rupees 10,000 has been granted by the District Board, Rs. 11,800 from the local relief committees' funds and Rs. 6,000 is

expected from the Bengal Central Flood Relief Committee. Government are also considering the question of sanctioning additional funds for the purpose.

(*iv*) There arose no necessity for supply of seedlings as sufficient amount of agricultural loan was distributed for the purpose and cultivators themselves procured seedlings with the help of this money.

(*b*) It is not known if any private landlord has granted remission of rent dues. Proposals have been called for as regards remission of rents in Government estates.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Elementary causes of floods are beyond human control. As regards controllable factors which aggravate flooding, necessary steps are being taken by the Government in the Department of Communications and Works (Irrigation Branch) to investigate their effect.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount Government are proposing to sanction for the purpose of re-erecting the huts?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, the whole question is still under consideration, and Government have not yet arrived at any decision

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what date Government expect to come to a final decision with regard to this matter?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is an urgent matter and Government hope to arrive at a decision before long.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the majority of the people whose huts have been washed away have not been able to erect their huts yet?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Very likely, Sir.

Fixation of minimum salary of teachers in non-Government schools.

82. Mr. JASIMUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) of fixation of minimum rate of salary of teachers and that of school fees in non-Government secondary schools;

(*ii*) that false figuring and double accounts exist in almost all such schools; and

(*iii*) that the system has stood in the way to improve the condition of the schools; and has actually created an unhealthy atmosphere in the educational institutions?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether this system of double accounts in schools has been reported on by the inspectorate; and

(*ii*) if not, what are the reasons?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate instituting an enquiry into the matter with a view to getting these institutions free from the evils?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes, in some schools at least.

(*iii*) Yes, where it exists.

(*b*) (*i*) No report is sent to the higher authorities, but when double accounts are detected, the school concerned is warned and, if the abuse is persisted in, punished by the withdrawal of grant. In the case of unaided schools, when the keeping of duplicate accounts is detected, the matter is brought to the notice of the Calcutta University.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*c*) As Government have no power to remedy the abuse in non-aided schools it is not proposed to make an enquiry.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to see to the desirability of doing away with the fixation of salary of teachers in the case of non-aided schools?

Mr. SPEAKER: I could not follow your question. Will you please repeat your question?

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to see to the desirability of doing away with the fixation of minimum salary of teachers in non-aided schools?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister says in answer (*a*)(*ii*) "Yes, in some schools at least." The question was: "that false figuring and double accounts exist in almost all such schools", and in answer the Hon'ble Minister says "Yes, in some schools at least". Now, with reference to that I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to state if he considers the desirability of doing away with the system of fixation of salary of teachers in non-aided schools?

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have to first ask Government whether that is the system. I am afraid, therefore, that your question does not arise.

Wakf estates in Bengal.

63. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of the Wakf estates of Bengal that have been registered by the Wakf Commissioner since the passing of the Act;

(*ii*) the total income of those estates;

(*iii*) the income of the biggest and the smallest estates;

(*iv*) the total annual expenditure of the establishment charges of Wakf Commissioner's Office; and

(*v*) what is the income of the said office?

(*b*) Has it to pay any interest for the money it takes from the Government to bear their expenses?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the rate of such interest, and

(*ii*) the amount paid thereof per annum?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) By the courtesy of the Commissioner of Wakfs, I am in a position to state as follows:—

(*i*) Number of wakfs enrolled (up to 9th February, 1939) 5,343.

(*ii*) Their total gross income Rs. 60,80,062.

(*iii*) Biggest Wakf estate is the Dacca Nawab Estate, its total gross income being—Rs. 1,73,440.

There are many small estates having no income at all.

	Rs.	a.	p.
(*iv*) In the year 1936-37	53,693	0	0
In the year 1937-38	70,607	15	7
In the year 1938-39 (up to December)	59,134	11	11
Estimated cost up to the end of financial year	80,000	0	0
(*v*) In the year 1936-37	72,584	1	9
In the year 1937-38	81,649	3	3
In the year 1938-39 (up to January, 1939)	63,041	8	0

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) Rate of interest—Rs. 4,000 at 4½ per cent. per annum and Rs. 66,140 at 4 per cent. per annum.

(*ii*) In the year 1937-38—Rs. 1,167-8-0. In the year 1938-39—Rs. 3,388-3-5.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In view of answers (*a*) (*iv*) and (*v*), read together, which indicate that there remains no available balance of income after meeting the establishment charges, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of making a grant for properly carrying out the provisions of the Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Wakf Act is going to be amended, and it is expected that the present state of things will improve.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In view of answers (*a*) (*iv*) and (*v*), from which it appears that the entire income of the Wakf Estates is spent for the purpose of meeting the establishment charges and there is no available money for carrying out other purposes, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making a Government grant to the Board for the purpose of carrying out other duties?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In view of the request that has been made, I will ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to examine the proposal.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of reducing the establishment charges in the Wakf Commissioner's office?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The matter is not so very easy. However, I shall consider it.

Ratio of Muslims in the Panel of Public Prosecutors, 24-Parganas.

64. Maulvi ABDUL BARI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in respect of the 24-Parganas district—

(*i*) the total number of lawyers including the Public Prosecutors, Additional Public Prosecutors and lawyers appointed in the Panel of Public Prosecutors to conduct the Crown cases;

(*ii*) how many of them are Mussalmans; and

(*iii*) what is the amount of fees drawn by each of them every month in the year ending in March, 1936, 1937, and December, 1938?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that discontentment prevails amongst the Mussalman lawyers in the Panel of Public Prosecutors owing to the differential treatments meted out to them in the matter of distribution of briefs?

(*c*) Is it a fact that they are seldom briefed with original and important cases?

(*d*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that recently a number of Hindu lawyers in the Panel of Public Prosecutors of the 24-Parganas, appointed formerly in the grade of Rs. 25 per diem have been reinstated in that grade; and

(*ii*) that the Mussalman lawyers so appointed have not been so reinstated?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing at least 50 per cent. of Mussalman lawyers in the Panel of Public Prosecutors 24-Parganas, to conduct Crown cases and also to the appointment of a Mussalman lawyer as a Public Prosecutor or Additional Public Prosecutor immediately?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years 1936, 1937 and 1938 in respect of the 24-Parganas district—

(*i*) the number of Crown cases given to lawyers outside the Panel;

(*ii*) the fees paid to each of them; and

(*iii*) whether any Mussalman lawyer was ever briefed with such cases?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) The member is referred to answers to clauses (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) of the starred question No. 106 of the 6th March, 1939, by Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas.

(*iii*) The reply in the form asked is not readily available but reference may be made to the reply given to clause (*e*) of a similar starred question No. 106 of the 6th March, 1939, by Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No. Cases are distributed according to their nature to lawyers of respective standing and ability.

(*d*) (*i*) and (*ii*) The member is referred to the answer to clauses (*c*) and (*d*) of the starred question No. 106 of the 6th March, 1939, of Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas, in the present session.

(*e*) No. Panel lawyers are appointed from among those practising at the local Criminal Court Bar. The total number of Muhammadans so practising is reported to be 7, of whom 5 are in the Panel.

(*f*) The member is referred to the reply to clauses (*f*), (*g*) and (*h*) of the starred question No. 106 of 6th March, 1939, of Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of answer (*e*) that the total number of Muhammadan pleaders practising in the Criminal Court Bar is reported to be 7, of whom five are in the panel, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total number of all lawyers of all classes practising in the Alipore Court and the number of panel lawyers?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: About 671 is the total number of pleaders practising in the Alipore Court.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But what is the total number of panel lawyers? Out of 671, what is the total number of panel lawyers? The Hon'ble Minister has mentioned in answer (*c*) that panel lawyers are appointed from among those practising at the local Criminal Court Bar. That refers to the Public Prosecutors. I would like the Hon'ble Minister kindly to enlighten us as to the total number of such lawyers who are on the Panel of Public Prosecutors in that Court, corresponding to the total number of practising lawyers. The total number of practising lawyers is 671, but what is the total number of panel lawyers?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The honourable member will find that in the answer given to question 106 of this session.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that out of 7 panel lawyers, Maulvi Golam Muhammad is the only Muhammadan lawyer on the panel?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that while all panel lawyers were getting a fee of Rs. 25, recently only Maulvi Golam Muhammad has been ordered to get Rs. 16?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

37—Education—General.

(The debate under the head "Education—General" was resumed.)

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 53,56,000 under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of a capital grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for the spread of education among educationally-backward classes other than the Scheduled Castes and of appointing a Special Officer for the purpose.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, এই প্রস্তাব যদি কোন যোগ্যতর সভ্যের দ্বারা উত্থাপিত হোতো তাহলে আমি সুখী হতাম। কারণ বাংলাদেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের শিক্ষা এবং তাদের ভালো হবার সম্ভাবনা এই কাট motion এর আলোচনার উপর অনেকটা নির্ভর করে। বাংলাদেশে Schedule Caste এবং Mahomadan ছাড়া আরো বহুসংখ্যক শিক্ষায় অনগ্রসর জাতি রয়েছে,—যাদের কথা আমরা বিশেষ কিছু চিন্তা করি না। যারা এতকাল শিক্ষায় অনগ্রসর ছিলো এদেশের মুসলমান আর Schedule Caste, তারা যে আজ শিক্ষালাভের সুযোগ পাচ্ছে এজন্য আমি খুব আনন্দিত। অবশ্য এই উভয় শ্রেণীরই শিক্ষার জন্য যদি আরও টাকার দরকার হয় তবে তার বরাদ্দ হলেও ভালো হয়। সেই সঙ্গে আমি আর একটা শ্রেণীর লোকদের কথা বলবো যাদের educationally backward বোলে ধরা হোয়েছে। কিন্তু যারা Scheduled Castes এর ভিতর পড়ে না তাদের সংখ্যা ৯০ লক্ষের কম নয়। তাদের ভিতর যা শিক্ষার হার—সে সম্বন্ধে আমি কয়েকটা জাতির উদাহরণ দিয়ে বোলে দিচ্ছি—সদ্গোপেরা শতকরা ১০ জন লেখাপড়া জানে—প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার হিসাবে। যোগী শতকরা ১১ জন, কলু শতকরা ১১ জন, কামার শতকরা ১৫ জন, কুমোর শতকরা ৯ জন, মাহিষ্য শতকরা ১৫ জনের বেশী, নাপিত শতকরা সাড়ে এগারো জন, বারুজীবি শতকরা ১৭ জন—এছাড়া আরো অনেক জাতি আছে যেমন কাপালি প্রভৃতি। তারা সব শিক্ষায় extremely backword। আমি এটা জানি যে Schedule Castes এর সঙ্গে তুলনা কোরলে শতকরা হিসেবে এদের শিক্ষিতের সংখ্যা বেশী হবে কিন্তু তথাপি আমি বোলবো—যে বাস্তবিক যদি আমরা এক জাতি গোড়তে চাই—যদি আমরা সমস্ত বাঙ্গালী সমাজকে বড় কোরতে চাই, যদি আমরা মনে মনে এই উচ্চতর আশা পোষণ কোরে থাকি আমাদের ভিতর স্ত্রীপুরুষ নির্বিশেষে শিক্ষার খুব বেশী রকম প্রসার হবে—এবং এমন দিন আসবে যেদিন ধর্ম্মের ভেদ ভুলে গিয়ে একটা অখন্ড nuited nation গোড়তে পারবো। এই সম্ভাবনাটা যদি আমরা মনে মনে ধারণা কোরে থাকি তাহলে যারা পেছনে পড়ে আছে তাদের সাম্নের দিকে টেনে আনতেই হবে, এবং যারা অনগ্রসর তাদের অগ্রসর করাতে হবে। আমি আনন্দিত

যে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় তাঁর White Book এ এক জায়গায় উল্লেখ কোরেছেন যে—It has been found that there are many backward communities who have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes and it is necessary that provision of scholarships should be made for them as well. An additional provision of one lakh has accordingly been included in the Budget for awarding scholarships to deserving students. Out of this 60 thousand will be earmarked for Muslim students, 20 thousand for scheduled castes students and 20 thousand for others.

আমি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা কোরেছি যে এই others এর মানে কি? এই other মানে কি অপর অপর educationally backword classes ? তিনি বলেছেন হাঁ, তাহাই। তারপর নীচে তিনি আরো বোলেছেন— "As many really meritorious students find themselves unable to continue their studies on account of pecuniary difficulties, a provision of 60 thousand for special stipends in really deserving cases has been included in the Budget. Out of this amount 50 thousand will be earmarked for Muslim students and 5 thousand for students of the scheduled castes and 5 thousand for others." আমি একথা জিজ্ঞাসা কোরতে চাই না যে ৬০ হাজার টাকার মধ্যে ৫০ হাজার কেন মুসলমানদের জন্য হয়েছে, এবং মাত্র পাঁচ হাজার Scheduled Castes দের জন্য হয়েছে এবং পাঁচ হাজার others এর জন্য হোয়েছে। আমি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে এজন্য ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি,—কেননা তিনি অনগ্রসর জাতিদের বালকবালিকাদের জন্য কিছু ধরেছেন। কিন্তু আরো অনেক বেশী ধরা উচিত। এ সম্বন্ধে আমার বন্ধুদের মধ্যে অনেকে cut motion উত্থাপন করবার নোটিশ দিয়েছিলেন। এই inequitous distribution of scholarship এবং stipend দেওয়ার প্রতিবাদে। Dr. Sanyal ২৭নং মোসন, শ্রীযুক্ত নরেন্দ্রনাথ দাশগুপ্ত মহাশয়ের ৪৭নং মোসন, শ্রীযুক্ত অতুল ঘোষ মহাশয়ের ১১৮নং মোসন, শ্রীযুক্ত মন্মথনাথ রায় মহাশয়ের ১৬৪নং মোসন এই পরিষদে উত্থাপিত হোয়েছে। এইসব মোসনের দ্বারা এইটাই প্রমাণিত হয় যে তাদের মনের মধ্যেও এইভাবই জেগেছে যে এইসব stipend ও scholarship আরো বেশী কোরে বিতারিত হোক।

সভাপতি মহাশয়, গত বৎসর বাজেটের সময় আমাদের Chief Minister একথা বোলেছিলেন—— "I will certainly induce my hon'ble colleague, the Minister in charge of Finance, to set apart larger and larger sums for scholarships and stipends for Muslim students, the students of the scheduled castes and the students of other backward classes."

এটা হচ্ছে তাঁর ১৯০৮এর ১৭ মার্চ্চএর বক্তৃতা। তারপরে ১৯০৮এর ১৬ই আগষ্টে তিনি বলছেন— "I have had always in my mind the solicitude for the scheduled castes and other backward classes along with the consideation for the uplift of my own community. I have never wavered in my loyalty to the cause of the uplift of those whom Providence has rendered helpless and unable to look after their own interests."

এবং তারপরে বোলেছেন—

Whenever I have thought of Muslim students, I have also thought of the students of the Scheduled Castes and all other backward communities এর নিচে তিনি বলেছেন education of the boys of the Scheduled

castes as well as of the other minorities must necessarily be the first charge on public revenue.

আমি আনন্দিত যে প্রধান মন্ত্রীমহাশয় একথা বহুকাল হোতে অনুভব কোরে এসেছেন। তাঁর বক্তৃতার মানে যদি আমি বুঝতে পেরে থাকি তাহলে আমি একথা বুঝেছি যে তার মানে তাঁর বাল্যকাল থেকে, তাঁর যৌবন থেকে এই ধারণা হোয়েছে যে বাংলাদেশের সত্য সত্যই যদি উন্নতি কোরতে হয় তাহলে সমস্ত জাতির সমস্ত ধর্ম্মের লোক যারা পেছনে আছে, তাদের এগিয়ে আনতে হবে। আমি যদি ঠিকমত বুঝতে পেরে থাকি—তাহলে এই হচ্চে তাঁর বক্তৃতার মর্ম্মকথা। তা যদি হয় তা হলে আজকে যে motion আমি এনেছি প্রধান মন্ত্রীমহাশয় এবং অর্থসচিব মহাশয় তা গ্রহণ কোরবেন, এবং গ্রহণ যদি না করেন তাহলে, তাঁদের Policy [illegible], আমাদের জানাবেন। (A member from the coalition group. সভাপতি মহাশয়, উনিও কি অনগ্রসরের মধ্যে?) যদি মনে করা হয় যে হিন্দুরা অগ্রসর তাহলে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এটাও ভেবে দেখা উচিত যে হিন্দু সমাজের সমস্ত স্তরের লোকেরাই অগ্রসর কি না? আমি বোলবো—সমানভাবে অগ্রসর নয়। এবং সমানভাবে অগ্রসর যে নয় তা স্বীকার করাই হোয়েছে Scheduled Caste এর জন্য একটা provision কোরে। যদিও সে Provision যে পরিমাণে দরকার সে পরিমাণে হয় নাই। এর থেকে এটাও স্বীকার্য্য যে অন্যান্য যারা পিছিয়ে আছে, যাদের ভিতর এখনো জ্ঞানের আলোক প্রবেশ কোরতে পারে নাই তারা যাতে জ্ঞানলাভ কোরে এগিয়ে যেতে পারে তার জন্য চেষ্টা কোরতে হবে। এই কথা কয়টি বোলে আমি আমার cut motion টা প্রধান মন্ত্রী-মহাশয়ের কাছে, অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের কাছে এবং এই House এর সমক্ষে গ্রহণ করবার জন্য উপস্থিত কোরছি এবং আশা করি তারা এটা গ্রহণ কোরবেন। এটা মনে রাখতে হবে যে শুধু মুসলমানের উন্নতি হলেই দেশ বড় হবে না, শুধু হিন্দুদের মধ্যে কয়েক শ্রেণী বড় হলেই দেশ বড় হবে না। যদি আমাদের দেশকে বড় কোরত হয়, স্বাধীন কোরতে হয় এবং যদি স্বারজলাভ কোরতে হয়—তাহলে দেশের সমস্ত লোকের উন্নতি কোরতে হবে।

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, someone said a disturbing thing last night. He implied that the Minister for Education had no right to speak about primary education in this Assembly since he has done nothing to spread it in his own constituency. That strikes at most of us. I myself representing the Bengal Chamber of Commerce confess with shame and remorse that I have done nothing to spread primary education in my constituency, and I don't think Sir George Campbell has done anything either.

One thing I can pride myself upon is that I have not now or at any time said any word to try and prevent the department of education from establishing a satisfactory system of primary schools in the province. We say that everything comes to him that waits, provided he is prepared to wait for it long enough. But primary education in Bengal seems to be outside the realm of human probability, and if certain members of this House and if certain members of the outside public have their way the Wandering Jew himself will exhaust his immortality before we have a system of primary education.

Yet it is all tragic because we have the material for a good beginning. We have a Primary Education Act, that is reasonably good. We have already 60,000 schools and more in the province, many of

which might be pressed into its service. We have a large supply of potential teachers, for there are thousands of educated young men who would rejoice to have the opportunity of serving their generation and their province in these humble capacities.

Let me say a few words about that Act. We passed it about ten years ago. One party walked out of the House rather than suffer the shame of lending countenance to an attempt to give to the province the schools it needs. The others rejoiced amongst themselves. They congratulated themselves and one another. It was all happiness and gaiety, but the gaiety, it seems, of a man who sign chits freely when setting out on a long voyage, because he knows that payment is several thousands of miles away. They talked then of payment as ten years away. In ten years it was expected that considerable progress would be made, and that the province would be ready to pay at least a good part of the bill. Those ten years are nearly up. We have hardly started. Mymensingh has gallantly blazed the trail. But very little else has been done, and there has grown up a mentality that is opposed to progress. That Act, out of which we expected so much, is now held up, almost ridiculed, derided, unadmired, and nowadays we hear chiefly that nothing should be done to implement it, and that it is wrong, cruel, grinding the faces of the poor to go ahead with our primary school organisation.

A system of primary education for 50 million people is not to be provided for by chance. Casual strokes of luck will never pay for it, nor, I am afraid, is there any prospect of our getting any one else to pay for it. Most of the 50 million people in the province are villagers. Nearly all the schools to be provided for are for them. Yet we are told in this House, in speeches, in questions, in speeches outside, that they, the people of the villages who are nearly all the people of Bengal, should be excused payment because of their poverty. That is almost to argue that the people of Bengal should not pay for the schools of Bengal. The Act provides for schools for country districts, to be paid for by Bengal outside the towns. There are other Acts that provide for elementary schools for the towns, to be paid for by the towns. And some of us here are now sitting on a committee that is concerned among other things to find out whether we can amalgamate the two systems into one system whereby the whole of Bengal, town and village, provides the schools for the whole of Bengal and pays for them.

The Act provides for a revenue of 120 lakhs of rupees towards the cost of free and compulsory primary education. There are some in this House, I think, who believe that the Act is to provide for the whole cost of free and compulsory primary education. That is a delusion. The Act provides that certain things shall be done and provides for much less revenue than is required to do them. And we shall find some day that a complete system of primary education will cost the province from 4 to 5 crores. Questions to-day and yesterday have shown that

the District Boards even when they do operate the Act fully will require subventions from Government in addition to what they can themselves raise. What proposals does any one make for meeting this heavy cost? One Committee with which I am connected has issued a questionnaire, and the proposals that have come in are very interesting. Some say that the Government of India should be asked to shoulder all the cost. These have my blessings rather than my hopes, and my hopes rather than my expectations. Others say that the townspeople in the municipal areas should pay the cost of education in the country-districts, because they are rich and the people in the villages are very poor. I see no prospect of advancing that point. And there are many other proposals. One proposal, I have among these papers is that the money for a system of primary education shall be got from a special tax on spectacles, walking sticks, fountain-pens and rings. I do not think many of us would object to heavy taxes on men who wear many rings. But I do not think we can regard these as a serious contribution to the theory and practice of education, rather they are just bed-time stories for innocent little Ministers. Tell the Minister of Education or the Minister of Finance one of these little stories, and it is expected that he will have refreshing sleep, with a happy smile on his lips, refreshing and happy because temporarily oblivious of his political opponents, and more especially perhaps because temporarily oblivious of his own supporters. My appeal to the House, as a member of a party that may be regarded as without bias in this matter, is that the House on behalf of the province should regard this matter with seriousness. We cannot expect by some divine chance to get one crore, two crores, three crores or four crores from some unexpected source. The Minister of Finance for all his magic power with figures cannot wave our budget in the air, make a pause, utter an incantation, or one or two of the old *mantras* of Kamrup, and then suddenly show a few crores of rupees in his hand that have fallen out from hollow and unexpected places in the budget. You are not going to do anything much by trying to cheesepare a budget of 13 crores or moving items from one head to another. You are not going to do much in that way towards financing a system of primary education for a province of 50,000,000 people in which there are 5½ million boys and girls for whom education has to be provided. Let us feel always and everywhere that it is not public service to lead the peasant or anyone else to believe that this can be done so easily and in such a chancy manner. If we believe in our primary education we must be prepared to make an effort to bring it into existence, and we must do nothing at all to lead people to believe that it is their duty as citizens to refuse to pay the small cess that is called for. We are told that this cess is tyranny, oppression, grinding the faces of the poor, a millstone round the neck, and sometimes the last straw on the camel's back. If a peasant pays Rs. 10 in rent he will be called upon to pay 8 annas 9 pies in a year in educational cess. I think we cannot as

honest men pretend that that is a crushing proposal. So much fo primary education.

I shall say only a few words besides on the general structure of ou educational system. At the moment some of us are interested deeply i primary education, but that does not imply that we must be disinterest ed in other forms or other stages of education. The intellectual an moral health of the province requires good systems of primary educa tion, secondary education and college education. There are some in thi House, to judge from the proposals in this paper, who believe that country can do with only primary education. A country tha ha nothing better than that would never be a country entitled to any sor of distinction at all. And finally may I observe, in answer to certai criticisms that nothing is being done by the Minister of Education an his department, that we have here a budget of Rs. 153 lakhs for Educa tion besides Rs. 10 lakhs or so for European Education. While I wa in the department I remember we worked with budgets of about Rs. 11 lakhs, and we greatly rejoiced on one occasion when for special reason our budget went up to Rs. 120 lakhs. Now we have a budget of Rs. 15 lakhs and we are asked to believe that nothing is being done for Educa tion. If we study the details put before us in this Blue Book and thi Red Book we shall have to admit that there are very few parts of th field of Education for which something has not been done. And m last sentence would be a sentence of appreciation for all that has bee done of late for the physical training and the physical health of th boys and girls of Bengal through those new departments. In m opinion that work has been one of the best contributions to the educa tional and the general welfare of Bengal that we have seen in recen years.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Sir, I beg to move that the deman of Rs. 1,53,56,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the openin of agricultural classes in primary and secondary schools to impar rudiments of knowledge about agriculture.

Sir, at a glance it will appear that the proposal contained in m motion is a very very modest one. I have very deliberately considere the question and come forward with this modest proposal, because an ambitious proposal will, I am sure, at once be turned down by th Cabinet on the ground that funds are not available. It must b admitted on all hands, and I hope the Cabinet itself will share m views, that mass education is of paramount importance in this countr and that it should be diffused throughout the length and breadth of thi province. But as I know from the way in which the business is bein primary education is not being given effect to in the near future, have mooted this modest proposal of mine.

Now, if the present Government want the welfare of the province, if they want the salvation of the country, they must aim at the salvation of these people who come from the agriculturist class. Any attempt to do good to the country must have that end in view.

Now, Sir, as you know, such a scheme as that of imparting free primary education is not being given effect to in the near future, I want that agricultural classes should be opened in primary and secondary schools to impart rudiments of knowledge in agriculture. This will not involve large expenditure and the least that we can expect from the Government is what is contained in my proposal. There are secondary and primary schools spread all over the province. If they only had a class in each of them to impart rudimentary knowledge of agriculture I think much good would be done to these agriculturist people. If the good of the agriculturists is really in the heart of the Cabinet members, I think they should not hesitate to accept my proposal which will not involve them in any heavy expenditure. My proposal asks for small mercy, as it is not expected that the Ministers would spend large sums of money for the cultivators. What I want is simply this -give them some knowledge in agriculture so that they can manipulate their labour and make a decent earning with their knowledge in agriculture. For this agricultural knowledge there is now no scope and this can be done in our existing schools. Some sort of education in technique is necessary on the part of the agriculturists, mere starting of agricultural schools here and there will not serve any useful purpose ——.

At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.

(After adjournment.)

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA CUPTA: Is there any quorum, Sir?

(A count was made and it was found that there was quorum.)

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: On a point of information, Sir. Did I reach the time-limit?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you did.

Miss MIRA DATTA CUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motions moved by the members of my party and in support thereof I beg to say the following.

It is difficult to assess the value of this budget and it is difficult to appraise correctly the educational policy of the Government unless full particulars are available to members of the Legislature. I have before me, Sir, with this year's budget one of the latest Government publications—published in 1938—on public instruction in Bengal, but which gives us a detailed report only for the year 1935-36. Three

years have passed by since, and these three years have been very important in India for the great social, political, and educational changes that have taken place in this country. Yet we have no authentic official record or statistics to test the value of the work done by this Government. I hope the Hon'ble Education Minister will give his personal attention to this as soon as he can.

Nevertheless, I have tried to labour through the labyrinth of figures with which our Finance Minister, the Hon'ble Mr. Sarker, has tried to confuse us.

Yet, Sir, we would find many things of interest in the Education Budget which would compel our interest in this Government and its doings. It leaves the painful impression that even in matters educational its policy is determined by political expendiehcy and that the leading strings of Government in Bengal even in Education are not in the hands of the representatives of the people but in the hands of European traders, merchants, civil servants, army officers, and zemindars—Hindus and Muslims.

And was it not, Sir, the Hon'ble the Education Minister, Mr. Fazlul Huq, who said some time back that he was carrying on neither Hindu Raj nor Muslim Raj, but British Raj? And never was he more truthful than when he said that.

Sir, I find on the agenda paper motions sponsored not only by members of the Opposition but also from the Government Coalition Benches seeking to censure the Government for Government's failure to introduce compulsory and free primary education or for not making sufficient provision for the removal of illiteracy and for the education of the backward classes in the community. A number of motions are also for condemning the extravagance or impropriety of the grant for the so-called "Youth Welfare Work".

Of this number, the one by Khan Bahadur Mohammad Ali, one of the leading Whips of the Government Party, would naturally draw your attention. He wants the demand to be reduced for not making sufficient provision for adult education, for the removal of illiteracy.

Does he believe, Sir, that this Government resting on the support of exploiters of the people can afford to, or will be permitted by its supporters to, educate or enlighten the people under its charge? An awakened people would be a people in revolt against this Government. This Government and its supporters know it well. And, therefore, the Government cannot afford to spend more than the nominal sum of Rs. 13,000 for adult education for the whole of Bengal,—this provision will be found on page 281.

Not that this Government cannot financially afford it. Even in this year of deficit and crisis I find from page 113 that this Government can find money for increasing the Governor's Band Establishment from Rs. 45,000 in 1937-38 to Rs. 66,000 this year as compared with

the total of Rs. 13,000 for adult education. This Government must be suffering from plenty when it can sanction that increase for the Band, or else how that extravagance or many such extravagances can be justified? Yet this Government has no money for adult education.

Nor, Sir, when we come to primary education the outlook is any the rosier. The claims of primary education—the claims of Hindu and Muslim masses to education—have not received any more generous reception from Mr. Fazlul Huq's Government than it received from the Governments of Bamfylde Fullers and Anderson's.

That also can be explained. Those Imperialist stalwarts are gone, but British Imperialism still remains and uses its power and influence over this Government through diverse corrupting ways—through Campbells, through Lockharts, through Lindsays and through our Nawabs and Maharajas and through many lesser men.

Compulsory and universal primary education in this province is not possible unless the Government can muster up courage to divert funds to Education from the General Administration and Police expenditure. Then also this must be supplemented by additional revenues which can be obtained only from taxing the rich zemindars and European monopolists and merchants. This Government cannot have the courage either to tax the rich zemindars or the merchants or the monopolists, or to force a retrenchment of expenditure for Police and General Administration. For they, in that case, would compel this Government to resign by withholding the support they now give it. It is a pretty dilemma, Sir, for the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq to redeem his pledges to the electorate who are his ultimate but remote masters, or to abide by his patrons who are now his immediate and more exacting masters. And he has made his choice. He has thrown his election pledges, his party, his electors overboard to save himself and his new friends and allies. One must be a fool, Sir, if one is under any illusion that this Government can now or ever launch a scheme of free or compulsory, primary education for Bengal.

Sir, Bengal, as we all know, is not the country of zemindars, merchants, bankers, mill-owners, monopolists alone, although the province is no doubt being governed for them and for their advantage. It is a province where about 90 per cent. of the people get their living from the land and what provision, Sir, has been made in this budget for agricultural education in a province predominantly agricultural. It is Rs. 17,500 for 1939-40. The grant was Rs. 38,500 last year. It has been reduced to Rs. 17,500 this year a reduction of Rs. 20,000. Where does the saving go? In page 117 I find that the grant for Governor's Tour Expenses (including his special trains) has increased from Rs. 82,528 to Rs. 1,32,600 this year. It has increased by Rs. 50,000. Obviously, the Governor's tours and special trains are more important to the Ministers than the agricultural education of the peasant masses. But where will you take the Governor on tour? The

Governor cannot at heart feel happy when he finds himself surrounded by hungry millions in the villages.

Can Ministers be more callous or more irresponsible than when they are a party to this?

Sir, on occasions, the Education Minister can rise or stoop to the level of a demagogue when he would shout himself hoarse to his audience saying that he is trying to carry on the administration according to the best Islamic traditions.

Sir, in this age of scientific outlook and technical progress, what has our Education Minister learnt from the ways and traditions of modern Islamic States—Turkey, Egypt, Iran and Afganisthan? What provision has been made for scientific and technical education in his budget? Turning to page 263, we find that the Government Commercial Institute and all the Government Engineering and Survey Schools get this year a total grant of Rs. 1,92,000, while Government Madrassahs alone get Rs. 1,97,000. Sir, you the other day at the University Convocation in your address pointed out the handicaps of the people of this province and, in particular, of the Muslims and certain other classes, in scientific and industrial education which only can bring us in line with the modern world and can held us to fight our battles in life. What has the Education Minister done to increase those facilities in this province?

Instead, Sir, I find him, loyal to the old tradition, distributing a sum of no less than Rs. 12 lakhs a year on madrasahs and maktabs which are not only unprogressive but also unhelpful to that success which only a scientific education can ensure us in life. The time has long come for the secularisation of education.

This secularisation was opposed by vested interests and will still be opposed by them. But the Government must act courageously with due regard to the needs of the community. For a long time the reactionaries have their stronghold in these semi or pseudo-religious institutions and the Muslim masses in Bengal have suffered by being chained down to a system of education which has not given them equal opportunities with the rest of the community and with the rest of the world. A sum of 12 lakhs of rupees earmarked, if necessary, and spent every year for the technical and scientific education of people who are to-day unfortunately socially and economically backward would go a great way towards social advance and economic amelioration of the community. But it seems Ministers are not over-much anxious for the interests of the community.

Several members of the scheduled castes are depressed because out of the Rs. 5 lakhs specially voted last year for the education of the scheduled castes this Government have spent less than Rs. 2 lakhs and the Minister proposes to spend not more than Rs. 3 lakhs this year. If they turn to page 266, they will be more distressed. They will find

that for the guru-training schools alone the budget provision is a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs. Muslim members of the Coalition Party will be still more distressed, not only because of the name which the instituitons bear but also that Gurus should receive Rs. 6 lakhs. But they are reassured by the budget which shows that the Gurus are both Pandits and Maulvis.

If, Sir, they object to "Guru," perhaps the Education Minister in his anxiety to retain the support of his following might change the name to "Molla", but Guru or Molla, whatever the name, the spirit inspiring the teachers will be the spirit of reaction, the spirit opposed to progress and advance and it is this spirit which will cotinue to instruct generations of students, Muslims and Hindus, in this province. This deadening of young life and its generous and creative impulses through teachers trained in these guru-training schools could not but extend its baneful influence over the entire community of students in this province. The secondary schools in this province, which are run by private enterprise, have continued despite the many handicaps to give the community a flow of young men, unsullied, uncorrupted and with high ideals of service. This, Sir, has been regarded as a source of danger to British Imperialism which can only thrive through the ignorance and corruption of the people. If I remember aright, Sir, two years ago at the St. Andrew's Dinner it was a British Army Chief in Bengal who first led the call for the capture of the youth of Bengal Since then the plan has gone forward and to-day the budget presents us with a bill for two lakhs and a half for so-called youth welfare work in Bengal—it is a bill which a national Government asks the people to pay for forging fresh fetters in our chains of slavery. Long live the nation!

Will the Chief Minister make a statement in this House as to what is the genesis and object of this movement, who are the sponsors, whether military and police officers have anything to do with this movement—directly or indirectly, what is the relation of this movement with the Baden Powell Scout Movement, the Bratachari Movement and the Inter-School Sports Movement? Also in the demand there is a provision for one lakh ten thousand rupees for grants-in-aid? Will he please state to whom these grants-in-aid will be given and for what purposes?

I ask these questions, Sir, because members of this House have their misgivings on this issue. We have a right, Sir, to ask him these questions because this is a new project for which he should give us an explanation before he can have our sanction. To our minds, it has sinister political aims and possibilities. It is an attempt to corrupt our youth, our public life at the source. In connection with the youth welfare scheme, an advertisement has recently appeared in the press for the post of a Physical Directress on a salary of Rs. 500 rising to Rs. 1,000 per month. The advertisement specifies that the candidate

must be a European. Why a European, Sir? We know the scheme is born of the European Association, but it is the Indian who is called upon to pay for it. And, therefore, why not an Indian? Why not a Hindu, Muslim or any other Indian? Why not an Asiatic, Sir? Is a Japanese physical culturist inferior to a European as such or less welcome to us than a German or Italian? Why this distrust of Indians and Asiatics? The scheme is not educational, Sir. It is political. It is based on racial arrogance, hatred and prejudices and is designed to serve the ends of imperialists and their agents in this country.

Turning to women's education, Sir, I find it is the same stepmotherly attitude. According to the report on Public Instruction for 1935-36 (supplement) published in 1938, page 18 in 1934-35, there were 18,703 primary schools for girls: in 1935-36 the number of schools was reduced to 17,638 and more than one thousand 'girls' schools were closed down. I do not know whether there has been a further reduction in number since then.

In 1935-36 there were only 24 Government primary schools for girls on which the Government spent a sum of about Rs. 12,000 a year.

In 1939-40 the Government proposes to spend only Rs. 5,000 a year on Government primary schools for girls in Bengal.

If the Government think that the time has come for deprovincialisation of education, why start at the wrong end? Why not make a good beginning with the Government Arts Colleges and Government high schools? Public opinion in the province has repeatedly insisted on the deprovincialisation of Government Arts Colleges and secondary schools. There has also been repeated public demand for increased facilities for primary education and education for girls. This Government has flouted public demand in this respect and its measures are retrograde in the extreme.

Some of our Muslim friends feel—I know that not all—perhaps most sensible people do not—that the provision for a Purdah College has been for the benefit of Muslims in this province. Sir, I would not grudge Muslim women a college whose cost in land and building alone would amount to over Rs. 10 lakhs and which even before it has been started has received a lump grant of Rs. 71,000. But I certainly grudge any part of the money of yours and mine being misspent by this Government.

The sponsors of the college, as we all know, are Muslim women who themselves have never observed the purdah nor would they like to be sent back to the harem which imprisoned them for long ages. This Purdah College is part of the general movement of this Government against the emancipation, social and intellectual, of our community and of Muslim women specially. Sir, there are a number of non-Government women colleges in the province besides the two Government colleges at Calcutta and Dacca. If necessary it is the duty of

the Government and of the public to add to their number to meet the growing demand for women's education. But our watchword should be "education for progress" and not "education for reaction". In last year's debate, a number of coarse allegations, which only reflected on the breeding and culture of those who made them, were made in this Assembly in justification of the Purdah College. I am in a position, Sir, to refute and contradict emphatically all that was said. I speak not only of my college of which I have naturally the best knowledge, but I can speak generally of all other colleges. I regret, Sir, such things were said in this House. I left it to the good sense of the members concerned to make the necessary amends.

Sir, for all the non-Government women's colleges in Bengal the total grant is Rs. 25,000. Is this all that the Government can give this year for the non-Government women's colleges in Bengal? Our Government appears to be more anxious for the purdah than for the education of women. Sir, this Government has provided Rs. 49,000 this year for renewal of furniture and carpets, curtains and covers for the Government House. To them that certainly is more important than the education of their own women.

Sir, how long shall we be governed by the toadies and flunkeys of British Imperialism?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not move the motion standing in my name, but I take this opportunity of inviting the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to the necessity of establishing a training school for the Urdu and Hindi speaking teachers who are employed in muktabs and primary schools in Calcutta and its suburbs. I hope, Sir, that the need for the establishment of such an institution will not be questioned by any one in this House, or, for the matter of that, by anybody outside it. It is indeed a great pity that this city of ours—a city which prides itself on being the second largest in the British Empire—should not have a training school for the large number of teachers of muktabs and primary schools where education is imparted through the medium of Urdu and Hindi. I am sure, Sir, that it will be admitted on all hands that primary education is the foundation of higher education. If this is correct, then it follows that unless this foundation is laid on a solid basis, the superstructure of higher education, that may be built on it hereafter, will be fraught with dangerous possibilities. Good and sound teachers are required if primary education on a sound basis is to be imparted to our young ones.

But no teacher can be regarded as good and sound unless he has acquired the technique of teaching from a training school. As far as I know, there are about 450 maktabs and primary schools in Calcutta where the pupils are taught through the medium of either Urdu or Hindi. In these schools, Sir, there are about 750 teachers. We may

safely assume that these 750 teachers have been carrying on their very responsible duties without possessing the requisite equipment for such a task. I presume that the absence of a training school in Calcutta is due to the academic dispute as to whether the facilities should be provided by the Corporation of Calcutta or the Government of Bengal. It is no part of our business, Sir, to determine whether the Corporation of Calcutta or the Government of Bengal should find the money for the establishment of a training school in Calcutta. The fact remains that there does not exist a training school for maktab and primary school teachers. We therefore look up to the Government of Bengal as the only and sole authority on which devolves the responsibility of either supplying this need at their own expense or causing it to be supplied by any other body or authority. Before I sit down may I appeal to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to see that immediate steps are taken to remove this grievance, a grievance which is not fancied but real.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the grant of rupees five lakhs as an annual recurring grant for spread of education amongst Scheduled Castes.

We quite appreciate the sympathy of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, his best sympathy and good heart made him inclined to supplement for the education of the Scheduled Castes, the capital grant of Rs. 5 lakhs promising to pay the amount in the year 1938 to 1939. But his subsequent attitude in spending the amount made us believe that some misinterruptions might have happened in the meantime. I made my position quite clear in my budget speech of last year and placed before the House the needs for the capital grant of Rs. 5 lakhs. But I am surprised to see that the Government did not find the field to spend the amount within the time as promised and have adopted the policy to put a stop to the future similar demand.

With reference to the recommendation of the Scheduled Caste Education Committee, we find 2 lakhs of rupees have been allotted simply for Comilla, Barisal and Calcutta Scheduled Castes hostels neglecting the painful demands of all other districts, 1½ lakh for the building grant to high English and middle English schools, forgetting the question of the primary education.

It is regrettable to submit that unfortunate people of the Scheduled Castes have been deprived of getting primary schools in the areas thickly populated by them under the Free Primary School Scheme.

I can submit without any fear of contradiction that the District School Boards, local sub-committees and even the local sub-inspectors have neglected our cause and have done much more favour towards the

maktabs and primary schools in the areas predominated by the Muhammadans in the districts of Mymensingh and Dacca.

The first injustice done to the Scheduled Castes of Dacca district was manifest when Site Selection Committees were appointed. The legitimate right of representation of the Scheduled Castes in those committees was not recognised; only in two of such committees out of sixteen, in the whole district, Scheduled Castes were allowed to represent; while in 14 such committees they were denied any representation. Then the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee in good many cases were rejected only to satisfy the whims and caprices of some influential members of the Muslim Federation at Dacca. In the selection of primary schools by the Dacca District School Board, no principle save and except the principle of favouritism, nepotism and election propaganda of the Khwaja Party has been followed. The President of the District School Board and the District Inspector of Schools of Dacca are absolutely dumb figures. They proved themselves imbecile in this matter. Petitions after petitions with hundreds and hundreds of signatures were presented before them for sanctioning the old Scheduled Castes primary schools in Scheduled Castes areas but to no effect. Those petitions were not even considered in any meeting. The local Scheduled Castes M. L. A. tried his level best to rectify this glaring injustice but the conduct of the school authorities in this matter is highly condemnable.

The District Inspector of Schools of Dacca is the most notorious in this matter. His behaviour with the local Scheduled Castes M. L. A. was highly objectionable. He should be warned to deal fairly and gentlemanly with all M. L. A's., irrespective of caste or community in matters of public importance.

Sir, hundreds and hundreds of old primary schools of the Scheduled Castes were not sanctioned, while hundreds and hundreds of new such schools were sanctioned for the Muslims. To crown all many Scheduled Castes primary schools of even 20 years' standing were removed to the Muslim *para* totally ignoring the legitimate claims of the Scheduled Castes in retaining those schools in their own *para*. Prayers to rectify this wrong, go unheard. I regret much to say that the local school authorities are blind to the cause of Scheduled Castes education.

Sir, in the name of justice I fervently appeal to the Government for an immediate enquiry into the matter and in consultation with the Scheduled Castes M. L. A's. to rectify the misdeeds and injustice done to the cause of Scheduled Castes education in the districts of Mymensingh and Dacca.

I do submit without fear of any contradiction that the recommendations of the Education Committee are not the proper recommendations of the Scheduled Castes party. But the recommendations in a way are

the dictation of the Government and the scheme has been prepared accordingly which cannot meet the grievances of the backward districts of the province.

Mr. Promatha Ranjan Thakur, my honourable friend, has fully explained the position of the committee. The question of primary education is the most essential point with which we are vitally concerned.

To meet the want of primary education I would at once suggest to start at least 500 special primary schools in the areas thickly populated by the Scheduled Castes of the province, allowing not more than 25 special schools in a district and to allot a sum amounting to Rs. 1½ lakhs annually for the purpose.

The next point is the question of college and school fees above the middle English school standard. To declare the wholesale free of college and school fees, 48,000 are to be allotted for the college students, numbering about 500 in the province and Rs. 72,000 to be allotted to meet fees of the school boys, 2,000 in number. The sum will run annually.

Now coming to the point of hostels I submit that Rs. 36,000 to be allotted to meet the want of hostels in the headquarters numbering about 20 and 45,000 to be allotted to meet the demand of hostels in the subdivisional towns, not more than 75 in number, provided a hostel in the headquarters will get the monthly grant of Rs. 150 and the subdivisional hostel will get Rs. 50 a month each.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed one minute more.)

To speak of foreign education at least six students shall be awarded with stipends for foreign education. Each student should be given Rs. 300 per month and Rs. 21,600 to be allotted for the purpose.

Lastly, I submit that in allotting Rs. 75,000 as buildings grants to the various institutions, Rs. 52,400 are to be kept in the deposit account to meet the deficit accounts as I have stated.

Sir, the Government may ignore our causes but the dismal illiteracy pushes us from behind to put forward our legitimate demand as a matter of right and need.

Sir, before I finish I beg to submit a few words more. In all earnestness I appeal to the honourable members of the different groups——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal.

Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about want of any provision for introducing compulsory and free primary education.

At the very outset I would like every member of the House, and particularly the Cabinet, to consider the various problems before us with a scientific outlook. I shall specially deal with the problem of primary education. My intention is not to be merely a political critic, but I would give some positive suggestions to this effect. It matters little to me to-day whether there is Huq regime or any other. I shall come forward with acute problems of the day and try for their solution. I am nothing if I have no policy or programme to guide me. It matters little to the masses whether my personal existence is at stake. My duty, Sir, is to go forward with the demand of the people. To-day in Bengal different parties with different ideological outlook have grown. The different parties may not unite but they can combine on grave issues which are considered to be important to every party. Sir, the problem of education concerns the dumb millions of peasantry and labourers of Bengal. The primary education would be given to all the distressed and debased in the society. In this respect therefore no question of caste or creed can hinder us from advancement to the issue. There is not a single political party in Bengal which does not advocate its necessity. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister feels its necessity utmost. Taking it for granted, Sir, that there is want of sufficient money to shoulder the grave responsibilities on the part of the Government alone I shall put the blame on the Hon'ble the Chief Minister for not trying at least to take the initiative in the matter. He has always been telling us that taxes must be imposed on the poor fellows to start such a campaign. This is nothing but political bankruptcy on the part of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. History tells us that in all countries the students fulfilled this role. The students laboriously worked to put the thing into effect. In this connection I would like to refer the House to the resolution adopted by the All-India Students' Conference held at Calcutta last year defining clearly their attitude towards this issue. I would therefore request the Chief Minister to co-operate with this progressive organization at least on this issue. If he does this he can start with a small amount and can take the initiative in the matter. Sir, let us take a broad view of the whole situation and for the moment forget all personal egos. Let us bring the main issue to the forefront and try for its solution. For the last three years, Sir, we are only getting assurances from the Cabinet as to this or that. But to our utter misfortune and disappointment we have not got any comprehensive scheme for the important problems of the day. The popularity of the Cabinet depends and grows only when it——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. CIASUDDIN AHMED:

সভাপতি মহোদয়, গত কল্য আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজা দলের পক্ষথেকে আমার বন্ধু রমিজুদ্দিন সাহেব, কৃষকদের উপর কোন ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য না কোরে অবৈতনিক বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তনের যে প্রস্তাব কোরেছেন সেই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরতে যেয়ে আমি বোলেছি (A Voice from the Coalition Group : মাইক্রোফোনের কাছে যান) আমার voiceই মাইক্রোফোন। আমি বোলছি যে, বিগত আমলাতন্ত্র গভর্ণমেণ্টের সময় থেকে আজ পর্য্যন্ত সারা বাংলা দেশে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তনের যে বিরাট আন্দোলন চোলেছে তা সকলেই অবগত আছেন। আমরা পূর্ব্বে আমলা তন্ত্র গভর্ণমেণ্টের দোষ দিতাম, তারা এ দেশের লোকদের ভিতর শিক্ষার প্রসার চায় না, এটা সত্য কথা। সেই আমলাতন্ত্র গভর্ণমেণ্টের অবসানের পর আমরা আশা কোরেছিলাম, এবারে জনগণের শিক্ষার সুব্যবস্থা হবে কিন্তু বর্ত্তমান সময়ে আমরা সম্পূর্ণরূপে সে দিক দিয়ে নিরাশ হয়েছি। এ দেশে ইংরেজের পলিসি হচ্চে এই যে, যদি এ দেশের লোকদের শিক্ষিত করা যায় তাহলে এ দেশে তাদের রাজত্ব চালানো সম্ভব হবে না। এই জন্য তাদের শোনে দুইশত বৎসর রাজত্বকালে এদেশে শতকরা মাত্র ৭।৮ জন লোক শিক্ষিত হয়েছে, অর্থাৎ তারা শিক্ষা চায় নাই। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল জমিদার প্রধান। জমিদাররা চায় না যে, জনসাধারণ শিক্ষিত হয় এবং তাদের চোখ ফোটে। কারণ তারা শিক্ষিত হলে জমিদারী প্রথা থাকবে না, প্রজাসাধারণ শিক্ষিত হলে তাদের মাথায় কাঁঠাল ভেঙ্গে আর বেশী দিন মাতব্বরি করাও চোলবে না। আজ যদি জনসাধারণ শিক্ষিত হতো এবং আমরা যদি জনসাধারণের প্রকৃত প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে এখানে বর্ত্তমান থাকতে পারতাম তাহলে আমাদের মাথার উপর বোসে এই জমিদার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী যা তা কোরতে পারতো না। আমি বোলছি যে, প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে জমিদারপ্রধান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর যদি দুরভিসন্ধি না থাকতো, তাহলে যেখানে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য টাকা পাওয়া যায় না সেখানে তারা বড় লোকদের পরিচালিত স্কুল, কলেজের জন্য লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোরতেন না। বাজেটে দেখা যায় ১॥ লক্ষ টাকা St. Xavier's College এর জন্য খরচ হবে, এবং ১ লক্ষ ২৫ হাজার বর্দ্ধমান রাজ-কলেজের জন্য, City College এর জন্য ৫০ হাজার, মহারাজা কাশিম বাজারের Institution এর জন্য ২৭ হাজার প্রভৃতি আরও অনেক বড় লোকদের পরিচালিত শিক্ষাগারের জন্য টাকা বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন। এ থেকে স্পষ্টই বোঝা যায় যে, বড় লোকদের ছেলেপিলেদের সুবিধার জন্যই গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রচুর ব্যয় কোরতে ব্যস্ত, কিন্তু যখনই প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার কথা হয় তখনই টাকা নাই বোলে নানা রকমে ট্যাক্স ধরার কথা তাঁরা ওঠান। কৃষকদের মধ্যে শিক্ষা বিস্তারের ব্যাপারে ট্যাক্স ধরার আমরা সম্পূর্ণ বিরোধী নই। আমরা বলি যে, কেবল কৃষকদের উপর আর ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য হোতে পারে না। বড়লোক ও জমিদারদের উপর ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য করার আমরা কখনো বিরোধী নই। আমরা চাই, কৃষকদের উপর কোন রকম ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য না কোরে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক এবং অবৈতনিক কোরতে। কৃষকদের বর্ত্তমান অবস্থার যারা খবর রাখেন তাঁরাই জানেন যে, কৃষকেরা দুই বেলা পেট পুরে খেতে পায় না, উপযুক্ত কাপড় পোরতে পারে না, রোগে ঔষধ পায় না, এ অবস্থায় খাজনার উপর বাজনা স্বরূপ যদি ট্যাক্স বসানো হয়, তাহলে তারা দিবে কোথা থেকে? আর একটি কথা, যেখানে শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক হবে না সেখানে যদি তারা ট্যাক্স দেয় তাহলে তাদের শুধু ট্যাক্স দেওয়াই সার হবে, তাদের ছেলেপিলেরা শিক্ষিত হতে পারবে না। এই জন্যই আমরা কৃষকদের উপর ট্যাক্স ধার্য্যের পক্ষপাতি নই।

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I take this opportunity of conveying the thankfulness of the University of Dacca to the Government of Bengal for a provision in the budget for the construction of a second hall for the students of the Muslim Hall. But the provision is inadequate and the University hopes that sufficient funds will be provided for the purpose in future. However, the University feels happy as the rightful claims of the students of the Muslim Hall have

been recognised by the Government in sanctioning a second Hall for them. Great hopes and aspirations have been entertained of the Hall by the people of Bengal, and I am proud to say that the Hall has fulfilled them to a considerable extent. The Hall has contributed its quota to the several Executive, Judicial, Educational and other services of the province including the Indian Police Service. Many important positions under the Government are now being held by the alumni of the Muslim Hall. In the University itself the old students of the Hall are holding responsible positions, both administrative and academic. Many of them are occupying important positions in public life. As many as 8 old students of the Hall are members of this Assembly. Sir, these are no mean achievements for a Hall of a University within the short period of its existence. I again thank the Government for extending its recognition to these achievements of the Muslim Hall.

Sir, a word about the finances of the University. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has mentioned in his budget speech—I am quoting him, "As we have made no provincial law to continue the charged character of these grants, they appear in the votable demands of the budget for next year" He then referred to the Dacca University grant under section 47A of the Dacca University Act, 1920, as one of the grants in question. Sir, I do not know if the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has realised that it is educationally unsound that the finances of a University should be unstable, making the University grant dependable upon the uncertain vote of the Assembly I am really sorry that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister did not take steps in time to introduce a Bill and have it passed into an Act providing for the continuance of the charged character of the Dacca University grant.

Sir, in view of the fact that the progress of the University may be retarded by the unstable finances of the University I request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to bring in a Bill immediately to make the Dacca University grant a charge on the provincial revenue.

Mr. SYED AHMED KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি আমার বন্ধু রমিজুদ্দিন সাহেবের প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা প্রচলনের প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করি। বিগত Session এ বিনা ট্যাক্সে বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রচলনের যে প্রস্তাব পাশ হয়েছিলো, আজ পর্যন্ত সে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বাংলাদেশে প্রচলন করা হয় নাই। এখন কথা হচ্ছে এই যে বাংলার বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী কৃষক জন সাধারণের শিক্ষার দিকে উদাসীন। তারা চায় না যে অগণিত কৃষক সন্তান লেখা পড়া শিক্ষা কোরে তাদের অধিকার আদায়ের জন্য চেষ্টা করে। ছোট বেলায় আমি বইয়ে পোড়েছি বিদ্যা বলে নরপশু সবার প্রধান, বিদ্যাহীন ব্যক্তি হয় পশুর সমান নীচ যদি জ্ঞানী হয় পূজ্য করি তায় মন্ত্রী হয়ে বসে গিয়ে রাজার সভায় (From Coalition Party. রাজা শিক্ষা আরম্ভ হলো নাকি? Laughter.) চাই আজ বাংলার অন্ধ মূর্খ কৃষক জনসাধারণে লেখা পড়া শিক্ষা কোরে তাদের অধিকার আদায় করুক, জমিদার তালুকদার মহাজন এবং ধনিক বনিকের অত্যাচার থেকে নিজেদের রক্ষা করুক এবং রহিমবক্সের মথজকোরে কৃষক সন্তানেরা মন্ত্রীদের সঙ্গে সামিল হয়ে বসুক এটা বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল চায় না সেইজন্য যে সমস্ত হাই স্কুল এবং কলেজ রাজা মহারাজার খরচে চলে সেই সমস্ত কলেজে তাঁরা সাজাবা

বিতরণ কোরছেন কিন্তু যে সব কৃষক সন্তানের জায়গা জমি ছিটে মাটি উল্লেখ হয়েছে যারা চারটা পয়সা খরচ কোরে লেখা পড়া শিখতে পারে না তাদের লেখাপড়া শেখবার কোন বন্দোবস্ত এ মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল করে নাই। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল কি চান যে দেশের লোক লেখা পড়া না শিখে পল্লীর মতন হোয়ে থাক, নানা প্রকারে দাঙ্গা হাঙ্গামা চুরি ডাকাতিতে লিপ্ত থাক, আর তাঁরা পুলিশের লাঠি ও বন্দুক প্রভৃতির বহুল বন্দোবস্ত কোরতে থাকুন? কিন্তু লেখা পড়া শিখলে লোক শান্ত শিষ্ট হয় এবং দেশে যে শান্তি বিরাজ করে—সে কথা কি তারা জানেন না? জানেন নিশ্চয়ই কিন্তু সে দিকে দৃষ্টি দেন না। কৃষক শ্রমিকের প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার কথা উঠলেই এঁরা বলেন যে টাকা নাই,অথচ ঘোড় দৌড় থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে কুত্তা দৌড় এমন কি আহ্লাদ সম্পাদকের দৌড়াদৌড়ির বন্দোবস্ত হল (laughter) দেশে নূতন নূতন টেক্স পর্য্যন্ত—ওরা আদায় কোরতে ছাড়ছেন না অথচ কৃষকদের লেখাপড়া শিক্ষার বন্দোবস্ত কোরতে হলেই এদের—ভাণ্ডারে কাণা কড়ি থাকে না। এরা সর্ব্বদাই বড়লোকদের তেলা মাথায় তেল দিতে এত ব্যস্ত যে দীনদরিদ্র জনসাধারণের কথায় কান দেবার সময়ই পান না। যখন বলাহয় প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে একটা কোরে ডাক্তার খানা কোরে দেবার জন্য তখন এঁরা বলেন টাকা নাই, কৃষকদের পাশ্চীয় জলের বন্দোবস্ত করার কথা বল্লে এরা বলেন যে টাকা নাই, কৃষকদের কৃষি ঋণ দিতে বল্লেও ওঁদের মুখে শুনি সেই একইজবাব টাকা নাই; কিন্তু টাকা আছে—ধণী জমিদারদের আর কোয়ালিশন পার্টির মেম্বরদের স্বার্থসিদ্ধির বেলায়। তখন দেখা যায় যে কেবিনেটের হাতে টাকার কিছুমাত্র অভাব নাই। তাই আমরা বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে নিজেদের পার্টি রক্ষার জন্যই বহু বন্দোবস্ত করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু কৃষক জনসাধারনের জন্য কোন কিছু বন্দোবস্ত নাই; এবং এই বিষয়টা Select Committee গঠন ব্যাপারে বিশেষভাবে পরিস্ফুট। যত Select কমিটি গঠন করা হয়—তার বেশীভাগ মেম্বরই কোয়ালিশন পার্টি থেকে নেওয়া হয়, সে বাবদ বহু টাকা ব্যয়ের ও অভাব হয় না কিন্তু কৃষকদের বেলায়ই—খালি দেখা যায় যে ওঁদের হাতে টাকা থাকে না।

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make certain suggestions for the consideration of the Minister in charge of Education. On examining the award in the budget I find that he has tried his best to satisfy all communities—it may not be to their satisfaction. But I must say that of all the communities he has altogether forgotten the case of labour. I do not find in his budget any proposal for starting night schools to impart education to the workers or their children nor does he want to do his best to help the workers in other respects. My point of view, Sir, is that with an increasing labour population there should have been more provisions made in the budget for the education of the labourers and their children.

Sir, I shall relate the pitiable condition of a carpenter who tried to educate his son as best as he could. The son was educated no doubt but the father realised after the son passed all the examinations that it was a mere waste of money because the son failed to get any job anywhere. He visited many towns seeking for employment—even a ten-rupee job; he tried his best but failed to get any and returned thoroughly disgusted and disappointed. And it was then that the father realised his mistake. He thought within himself "I spent so much money for nothing. I got my son educated, but he cannot get any job anywhere." Mere education on general lines will not help to solve the problem of unemployment in the province which has been increased by leaps and bounds.

My suggestion, Sir, is that if vocational classes are started in secondary schools it will greatly help the people. The people will then be fully equipped and prove useful to their father's profession. They will not then have to hunt for jobs from door to door. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to examine this question minutely with a view to give relief to the poor people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got about 12 minutes' time for the Coalition Party members, and I have been told that there are four members of that party who desire to speak. The Chief Minister suggests that each should be allowed three minutes, and I agree with him.

Maulvi MD. HASANUZZAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Education বাজেট উপলক্ষে বিশেষ কতকগুলি মনের কথা ও ব্যথা বলিবার ছিল কিন্তু সময় মাত্র ৩ মিনিট। আমরা যাহাদের প্রতিনিধি সেজে কাউন্সিলে এসেছি, তাহাদের উপকারার্থে প্রাথমিশিক্ষার জন্য আশানুরূপ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। যদিও বর্ত্তমান "হক" গভর্ণমেণ্ট মোসলমান ও অনুন্নত সমাজের জন্য বৃত্তি, অতিরিক্ত সাহায্য ও মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার জন্য বহু টাকার বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন, কিন্তু আমাদের দাবী অনুযায়ী অতি সামান্য মাত্র। আজ বাংলার পল্লীবাসী প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা হইতে পর্যন্ত বঞ্চিত। তাহারা অভাবের তাড়নায় যেমন দিশাহারা অপর দিকে শিক্ষার অভাবে পশুবৎ। সকলে তাদের ঘৃণা করে।' কিন্তু এভাবে আর তাহাদিগকে উপেক্ষা করিলে চলিবেনা। তাহাদের ন্যায্য পাওনা দিতেই হইবে। তাই বংলার কোয়ালিশন গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার প্রয়োজনীয়তা উপলব্ধি করিয়া ১৯৩০ সালের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইন কয়েকটী জেলায় effect দিয়াছেন। কংগ্রেস ও অন্যান্য বিরোধীদলের বাধা বিঘ্নকে দৃক্‌পাত না করিয়া সত্বর প্রত্যেক জেলায় প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার প্রবর্ত্তন করা দরকার। গ্রাম্য নিরীহ পল্লীবাসীকে মূর্খ রাখাই কংগ্রেসের উদ্দেশ্য। তাই আমি মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রীসাহেবকে অনুরোধ করি তিনি সত্বর বাংলার প্রত্যেক জেলায় প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তন করিয়া পল্লীবাসীর মূর্খতা দূর করুন। তিনি ও তাঁহার কোয়ালিশন পার্টীর মেম্বরগণ এই মহৎ কাজের জন্য সমাজের বুকে অমর হইয়া থাকিবেন। গত বৎসর হইতে শ্রিপুরা জিলায় প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইনানুযায়ী কাজ আরম্ভ হইয়াছে। পল্লীতে পল্লীতে স্কুল পাওয়ার জন্য লোক আগ্রহ প্রকাশ করিতেছে।

আমাদের শ্রিপুরা জেলায় প্রত্যেক লোক ব্যস্ত হয়ে পড়েছে। আমার মনে হয় অতি সত্বর সারা বাংলায় প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তন করা উচিত। এবং যদিও এই আইন প্রবর্ত্তনের মতন অবস্থা পল্লী-বাসীর নহে কিন্তু যাদের প্রকৃত শিক্ষার দরকার তাদের থেকে কোন বাধাবিঘ্ন আসবেনা। যদিও সাময়িক ভাবে একটু কষ্ট হবে কিন্তু সেটা যেমন কোঁড়া হইলে operation এর ব্যবস্থা ডাক্তারগণ দিয়া থাকেন—operation টা যখন চলতে থাকে তখন কষ্ট হয় কিন্তু হয়ে গেলে পর সব দিক দিয়েই উপকারী ও আসান, এটার ফলও তেম্নি হবে। আমাদের সমাজে এই প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তনেরদ্বারা প্রভূত উপকার হবে। হাজার হাজার লোকের শিক্ষালাভের ফলে তারা গভর্ণ-মেণ্টকে আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ দিবে। এবং এই কোয়ালিশন পার্টির গভর্ণমেণ্ট অমর হোয়ে থাকবে। আমি জোর করে বলতে পারি যে এই ভারতের জন্য কোন কংগ্রেস প্রমেশ যা করতে পারে নাই আমাদের এই——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Sir, বাজেট কাটমোসন এনে কংগ্রেসী মেম্বররা এবং বিদ্রোহী প্রজা মেম্বরগণ মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়দের যে তীব্র সমালোচনা কোরছেন আমি তাদের জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি—এই House এর ভিতর এই প্রকার কুভাবের আন্দোলন কোরে যে সব সমালোচনা তারা কোরছেন তারা এই House এর বাইরে গিয়া যদি কোন public platform এ এই রকমের সমালোচনা শোনাতে চান তবে পাঁচ গন্ডা লোক ও পাবেন না। এবং আমি আরো বোলছি যে তারা যে দেশ প্রীতি দেখান, যে কৃষক প্রীতি দেখান এবং তারা যে সর্ব্বদাই দরিদ্রের বন্ধু বোলে মুখে বড়াই কোরে থাকেন, আমি খুব জোরের সঙ্গে বোলতে পারি—যে বাংলার প্রতি পল্লীতে পল্লীতে প্রতি ঘরে ঘরে দরিদ্রকৃষকেরা তাদের স্বরূপ অবগত হয়েছে। এবং তাঁদের যে দরদ কৃষক আর প্রজাদের উপর, সে দরদে যে বাংলাদেশের প্রজারা বাঁচবে না বা মোরবে না—প্রত্যেক কৃষকেই তা জানে। তাই যারা সমালোচনা করেন—সেই সব কংগ্রেস আর বিদ্রোহী প্রজা পার্টির সভ্যদের লক্ষ্য কোরে আমি বোলছি যে—বাংলাদেশের Minister দের এই রকম ভাবে সমালোচনা করার প্রতিপত্তি আপনাদের নাই। (From the Coalition Group : "Hear, hear.")

এখন Primary Education এর সম্বন্ধে আমি বোলতে চাই যে, প্রাইমারি শিক্ষার জন্য খুব কম টাকা ধরা হয়েছে কিন্তু ঘর দরজা মেরামৎ ও প্রস্তুতের জন্য বিরাট টাকার বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। আমরা চাই প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার জন্য সরকার যেন বিশেষ ভাবে যত্নবান হন এবং এদিকে যেন অধিক টাকা দান করেন যার ফলে বাংলার ঘরে ঘরে যেন প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা বিস্তার লাভ করে। আমার আর একটা কথা এই যে বাংলাদেশের কৃষক সমাজের অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থা অতি শোচনীয় সেই জন্য আমি আমাদের মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী সাহেবকে এই অনুরোধ কোরছি যে যদি সম্ভবপর হয় তবে কৃষকদের শিক্ষাকর হতে যেন অব্যাহতি দেন।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Point of order.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir The names of the Opposition speakers have been sent up to you, and there are many amongst them who have not been given an opportunity to speak——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Gupta, I am sorry you are speaking without facts. I have called all the speakers whose names you have given to me except two, and I have told them that I would call them before I conclude the debate to-night.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: (The following is an English translation of the Bengali speech.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak a word here to-day. My time-limit being three minutes, I am not going to speak much. My point is that the whole country to-day is eager for the light of education. It is desirable that the light of education should be scattered on the whole country and on all the communities in an equal measure. This is calculated to do the greatest good to the country. There is not enough time to narrate here the long history of the causes why our Hindu friends occupying the opposite benches in this Assembly House have made so much progress in education and why we the Moslems,

members of the Scheduled Castes and backward classes are lagging so far behind. But it is incumbent on the Government to make good provisions for the education of those who are educationally backward by allowing them a larger number of scholarships, stipends and grants-in-aid. In my opinion services are not less important than stipends, scholarships, etc., in the matter of making better provision for education. That my Hindu friends are so much advanced educationally is no less due to the help they derived from Government services. This is why I say that we are also badly in need of employments. We are getting educated. We shall now have appointments secured in proportion to our numerical strength. It is for this reason that I request the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to make good provision for the education of the educationally backward communities like the Moslems, Scheduled Castes and backward classes. With regard to services the decision of the late alien Government was that not less than 33 per cent. of the appointments should go to the Moslems. This means that there is no legal bar to 99 per cent. of the appointments being given to the Moslems. But to-day the Moslems will not accept the percentage fixed at 33. Under the regime of our indigenous Government we have the resolution passed in the Assembly that 60 per cent. of the appointments should be given to the Moslems. But in spite of this the Moslems are not getting 10 per cent. of the appointments to-day. I deeply regret to say that some time back the Director of Physical Culture in the Department of Education which is under the charge of our Hon'ble the Chief Minister appointed 42 persons of whom only 9 were Moslems. It is for you to calculate from this what the percentage has been. Here is an under-Government working under the Government. If the Government order something to be done in a particular way, the under-Government do not comply and have their own way with it. This is why the Government above cannot do anything. It is for the same reason that the claims of the Moslems in regard to appointments are being trampled under foot.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: Sir, I rise to support the cut motions moved by my honourable friends, Mr. Monmohan Das and Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal.

Sir, the rise and prosperity of a nation or a community depends entirely on education. A nation or a community which is more advanced in education is more prosperous in social status, wealth and political ideas. Sir, God did not create any classification amongst mankind. It is the man who made it according to the measurement of education. Education is at the root of all social and political advancement and economic prosperity of the community concerned. Education is the wealth of a community.

Sir, the free compulsory education scheme which will be introduced in Bengal will certainly enhance the cause of education amongst the scheduled communities. The scheme will be a boon to the Scheduled Castes of Bengal—the community which so long has been suffering from various disadvantages for want of education. This scheme, as I firmly believe, will certainly banish all the difficulties that stand in their way to march forward with other people of Bengal. It would remove the disadvantages that stand in the way of achieving political and economic prosperity of these classes. It would banish difference between one man and another, one community and another and one faith and another.

Sir, with the light of education spreading among the Scheduled Castes which are generally known as cultivating classes who are hopelessly backward specially in education and wealth, the darkness that prevents these communities to step forward will diminish. This light will show the paths and avenues of prosperity. Sir, I urge upon the Government to introduce the scheme immediately.

Now, Sir, the grievances against the District School Board and the District Officers of the Education Department are not uncommon and are not confined to the district of Mymensingh only. Such complaints are becoming common day by day in the districts where District School Boards have been established. Whether the fault lies with District School Boards or with the District Officers of the Education Department should be enquired into and found out immediately. I think the District Educational Officers are to be blamed more than the District School Boards for such complaints. But, Sir, can we blame only the servants sparing the master? Such complaints in the district of Rangpur, which I represent, have always been brought to my knowledge. Some time ago, I brought these complaints to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. R. J. HAWKINGS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of Government to certain aspects of education that are in danger of being overshadowed by more urgent needs of primary education. I refer to the University training of engineering students and to the fact that the Universities are turning out more students than can easily find employment. Bengal is mainly an agricultural province, but its prosperity depends to a large extent on the engineering services. Unless the services are adequately served the prosperity of the province will suffer. Mere quantities of engineers are not enough but a high standard of training is necessary if the province is to be prosperous. Now, Sir, the training in the ordinary engineering courses in Bengal is based largely on English practice; but there is a fundamental difference between the two countries. In England there is an accepted tradition

of engineering which ensures that every school-boy knows something of practical engineering and by the time he goes to the University, he has a very fair knowledge of engineering-theory and practice. In addition, there is in England a large number of engineering works and institutions where the students can gain a practical knowledge that is so essential to his training. In Bengal there is neither the same engineering tradition nor are there the same number of works where students can get practical training. The result is that the Indian student, through no fault of his own, starts his course less well-equipped to learn engineering and with fewer facilities for making himself proficient. As a result he tends to rely too much on mere book learning forgetting that practical work is an essential complement to his theoretical training. It is, I think, a common experience of employers that when an Indian graduate presents himself for employment, he generally has excellent paper qualifications, but frequently lacks in any degree of practical experience. Furthermore, a certain number of graduates appear to lack any desire to acquire any practical experience and this, Sir, is a very serious matter To-day it will be found that the majority of senior engineers practising in India have received at least a portion of their training either in England or on the Continent, a fact which speaks for itself.

In the normal course of his training, the Indian student will get such practical experience as he can in the college laboratory This of course is limited by the amount of plant available and generally speaking is less than could be found in similar institutions in England or on the Continent. After his training is completed, he will, if he wishes to acquire further practical experience, apply to some firm or engineering institution to be accepted as an apprentice and if he is lucky—for the number of such places is limited -his application will be accepted.

The arrangement, Sir, is a voluntary one on both sides. Under the existing regulations governing the granting of diplomas, the student is allowed to receive no pay. The firm, on the other hand, does not receive any premium and the arrangement is far from satisfactory.

The student may object to manual work. He may dislike working side by side with *mistries* or may object to the necessary discipline of the engineering shops. The firm, on the other hand, may have neither the staff nor time to give the student adequate training. The result frequently is that, for one cause or another, the student does not complete his appreniceship training and so finds himself imperfectly trained, with no employment and no immediate prospect of finding it and, at that stage, represents a waste of time and money. Sir, this is not a matter that can be cured by legislation The fundamental difficulty is, I believe, an attitude of mind of certain of the students that engineering can be acquired solely from books and that the practical

application of theoretical learning is not necessary. Until this attitude is changed, India will never be able to make the most of her engineering students. I have, however, three proposals to make which might improve the present standard. Two of these proposals would not involve any expenditure of money and should therefore commend themselves to Government.

My first proposal is that the engineering colleges should hold an entrance examination to ensure that the students accepted have some real aptitude for engineering. I am told that it is the present practice for certain students, when they wish to enter the University, to enter their names for a number of faculties, e.g., Engineering, Science, Economics and Philosophy and then when one or other of the colleges admits them to the course, to present themselves ready to take up their course of studies. Now, Sir, however much we may sympathise with the student trying to fit himself for the difficult business of earning his living, I think this House will agree that the student who at the time of commencing his University course has not yet made up his mind which course he wishes to study, will not be able to get the best return for the time and money that must be spent on his education. It should be possible with a simple examination to find whether a student has any aptitude for engineering: if he has none, it would be better for the student, and certainly better for the finances of the province, if he were not allowed to commence a course from which he could not get the best return.

My second suggestion is that Government should appoint an officer to consider the conditions under which students get their practical training and, if possible, make some improvements in them. As has been stated, the arrangements are voluntary on each side. There is no uniformity between different firms, and no exact regulations covering the apprenticeship courses. It might be advisable to permit the students to receive some salary during the course. This would make the student more anxious to complete the course whilst, if the employers were paying him, there would be a greater incentive to make certain that the student was properly trained and therefore giving some return for the wages he was receiving. It might even be possible, with the consent of the University authorities, to withold the granting of the engineering degree until an approved course of practical training had been completed. These, Sir, are matters of detail which need not be discussed in this House. But if Government can do anything to ensure that the student realises the absolute necessity for some measure of practical training to supplement his theoretical knowledge—and if Government can do anything to make it easier for the student to obtain that training, it would be a good thing both for the student and for the province. My third suggestion is that, if possible, Government should increase the grant to the Engineering Colleges to enable them to put down more plant and thus give the student more opportunity to

become accustomed to manual work and to gain the practical experience that is so necessary. Sir, it is not suggested that the professional engineer in the ordinary course of his duties need perform any manual work, but unless he is capable of such work, unless he can regard any piece of engineering, no matter how trivial it is, as not necessarily beneath his dignity, unless he can acquire by actual working with them a certain degree of familiarity with the materials and the workmen themselves who together constitute the basis of all engineering projects, he will be unable either to train his subordinate staff or to command their confidence and respect in times of difficulty. For these reasons I commend my proposals to the sympathetic consideration of Government.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: At this late hour I do not propose to inflict a long speech on the House. I would start by expressing my agreement at any rate with a part of the observations made by the member representing the Dacca University. I support his proposal that the Government should take early steps to introduce a Bill for the purpose of securing a statutory grant for the Dacca University and I hope that when this Bill is introduced in this House the case of the University of Calcutta will also be considered and that that University will receive a similar treatment in the hands of the Government.

Now, Sir, I pass on to the Education Budget which we have been discussing since yesterday. For the last 7 years it has been my good fortune or misfortune to stand here in support of my *alma mater* but to-day I find for some reason or other the allegations which we often heard against the University have not been repeated on the floor of this House. I welcome this sign of confidence in the University which does not belong to any community but to the province as a whole.

With regard to the general question arising out of the Budget, Mr. Wordsworth expressed his satisfaction that the Government should have found it possible to provide for 35 lakhs of rupees more than what the Education Budget used to contain when he was the Director of Public Instruction sixteen years ago. But Mr. Wordsworth forgets the fact that, while in those days the revenue of Bengal was, I believe, somewhere near 9 crores of rupees, to-day it has gone up by about 5 to 6 crores. So if by reason of the fact that Bengal has to-day a larger revenue of about Rs. 5 crores, Rs. 35 lakhs have been spent more for education, I do not think that is a fact for which any special congratulations are called for. We should rather say that a larger amount should have been spent on education from the revenues of the province. My complaint against the Government is that there is a lack of any comprehensive and definite policy on the part of the Government regarding the various stages of education. Sir, let me not be misunderstood. I do not mind, these extra grants which are being made for many purposes, outlined in detail in the budget, but the problems are not

tackled in the way in which they should be, which will go not only to remove the wants of one community or another, but which will go to secure gradually educational reconstruction and usher in a new era of progress, so redounding to the credit of this great province of ours. I shall just give an illustration. Take the question of hostel accommodation in the province. Mr. Fazlul Huq has provided for two special hostels for Muhammadan students in the Barisal College. Perhaps they need the two hostels, but did Mr. Fazlul Huq who is not only the custodian of the interests of the Muslim community but whom we look upon also as the custodian of the interests of all communities in the province, take into consideration the state of things with regard to the Hindu students in that very institution? What are the facts to-day? You find that in the hostel reserved for Hindus there is room for about 80 students, but actually there are 98 students, and the sick room, the sheds outside the hostel building, the Superintendent's quarters are being utilised to accommodate the extra number of Hindu students who include Schedule Castes students as well. You also find that many students have to go and take their meals at what are called *thicca basas* which are kept by Orias in the town and they get their accommodation for the night in the *baitakkhanas* of some charitably disposed gentlemen in the locality. About 40 Hindu students were refused admission this year. As regards the Muhammadans students, 52 are staying in the hostel where there is room for about 48 and they are going to have two more hostels for them. Now, Sir, this is a typical illustration as to how the problems are not being looked upon as a whole, but from a communal standpoint. I ask, is there any policy for finding hostel accommodation for about 8,000 boys in this city who cannot afford to reside in approved lodgings?

Sir, look at the hostel accommodation for the girls in the city. You know the facts very well; the Director of Public Instruction who is taking notes from the gallery knows how seriously——

Mr. SPEAKER: You should not take notice of anybody except the members.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I have to take notice of the Director of Public Instruction in spite of myself!

Is it not a shame that the Government does not maintain a single special hostel for hundreds of girls who are reading in this great city of Calcutta? Provision has been made for the Purdah College, but is it not necessary that Government should have some definite policy regarding the entire question of girls' education, including the problem of their residence?

As regards adult education, we find there are 16 million adults above the age of 18 years who are completely illiterate and what is the provision made for them? The magnificent provision which the Government has made in this year's budget is a sum of Rs. 13,000 which is

less than half the sum which is given to "Azad" for the purpose of spreading communalism and creating divisions among different communities. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Congress Benches.) That is the way in which Government looks upon the great problem of adult education. All this is due to want of policy and a lack of statesmanship. You are tinkering with a great problem, you are giving something here and something there but we remain where we were.

I hold in my hands the report on the reform of secondary education issued by the Government of India. This is the report prepared by two distinguished British officers, Messrs. Abbot and Wood. It proposed revolutionary changes with regard to the secondary system of education. Has the Government any policy with a view to give effect to any of the changes recommended in the report? Has this been critically examined?

You know very well what the problem is. Our educational system has failed. We want that after the Matriculation, boys should be diverted to different channels, vocational, technical, agricultural and commercial, so that there may not be an undue rush on the University. But where are those institutions? When and how will they come into existence? We have been talking and talking for the last few years. There is no policy before Government. You are spending 35 lakhs of rupees more on Education, but is it going to improve the system of education as a whole? Of course, the Minister will say—well, the Secondary Education Board Bill was there. But what about the Secondary Education Board? That was practically nothing except the question of grabbing control—not the big question of the methods which we have to pursue for the purpose of improving Secondary Education. Even there when there were legislative difficulties for introducing the Bill, proposals had been made by members of the Education Department which contained most startling provisions. Sir, even a suggestion was made that if a school was established in this province which did not enjoy the approval of this particular Board, it might be made a legal offence, and the writer of that note—who perhaps will ever remain anonymous and will never come out before the public for he can face neither the Hindu nor the Muslim public of Bengal—depended for his authority on a system which had been obtaining in Germany. But may I ask who will play the role of Hitler in Bengal? What educational statesmanship is this that prompts the department to impose a condition that no school will be allowed to be opened anywhere in Bengal without the approval of the Board? Is that Educational reform? And is that going to be followed in this province where education has been based mainly on private support and enterprise?

Sir, the same arguments apply with regard to Higher Education. What about military education? We want to make progress. Is not Bengal going to have a Military School or College? It does not affect

Hindus or Muslims. We want to see these provisions made as part of State policy. You are spending lakhs to-day on what is called the Youth Welfare Movement. I do not know, Sir, what the details are. But I assert in the name of all reasonable members of this House that we must know definitely for what purposes this money is going to be spent. Is it for the purpose of having a big administrative machinery? That will not give us relief. I demand it, Sir, from the Chief Minister—let him get up here and give an assurance—that every pice of that 3 lakhs of rupees will go towards the actual improvement of the physical health of the children of the soil—Hindus and Muhammadans!

Sir, look where you like, the difficulty is that there is no policy and we are drifting aimlessly. Take University Education. There is the University College of Science. It is not the monopoly of any community. It is the pride of Bengal and India. But what is happening there? Government has refused to sanction grants for its development. We want to make developments of new subjects like Aeronautics, which is being studied in various provinces in India. But where is Bengal? I had a talk with a senior officer of the Government Institution and he was surprised that there was no attempt on the part of the Government of Bengal to do anything in that line. The University wanted that as part of the instruction given in the Bengal Engineering College, Aeronautics should be provided for. When that letter went to the Government of Bengal, the Government of Bengal replied "yes, Aeronautics may find a place in the University Regulations but if you expect that the Bengal Engineering College will provide for it, we can give you no guarantee". Now, Sir, what is the reason? It is because there is no policy, no breadth of outlook. You simply want to give some money to this institution or to that institution or for this purpose or for that purpose, good, bad and indifferent, but there is no policy behind it all so that the educational development may be pursued in this province on right lines and we can at least make a beginning in order to reach our goal.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, for the last two days there has been an almost interminable flow of eloquence over this Education Budget, but I regret that very few points of real importance relating to the education of the province have emerged out of these debates.

Primary education certainly loomed very large in the course of the discussions and I will say just a few words as to what we have been able to do, what we have been doing and what we propose to do, in the matter of the introduction of free and compulsory primary education in Bengal. It may be that I will have to repeat something of what I said last year, but for the sake of continuity in the presentation of my case I feel it necessary to do so. Those who have talked

so lightly of primary education have very little idea of the magnitude and the complexity of the problem, and I am extremely sorry that those who are not well posted as to facts should appear in this House as the champion of the cause of the education of the masses and should be talking, not from data but from imagination, not for the purpose of giving helpful criticisms but for the purpose of bringing the Government of the day into contempt. Politics should not be introduced into discussions relating to educational matters but I regret to say that the discussions during the last two days have tended more or less to degenerate into political diatribes against the Government and ended in the making of reckless charges without any evidence in support of them. Now, Sir, let us remember the facts that we have got to face. There are, as is well known, about 50 million people in the rural areas spread over an area of nearly 75,000 square miles and roughly speaking we have got a population of nearly 50 lakhs of boys and girls of school-going age. Now, Sir, what did the Government do to begin with in order to come to grips with the problem? They had an extensive survey made of the materials at their disposal. Last year when I was speaking on this very subject I pointed out to the House how we had taken great pains in having a complete educational survey and in having maps prepared showing on each map the location of each thana, and in each thana, the location of each village, and in each village the location of all kinds of primary schools—lower primary and upper primary—maktabs and others with a note as to the grant they received from Government and other sources, the resources of that locality and various other matters which were necessary to be known in order to estimate the position of these schools, the nature of the problem before us and the solutions which we have got to arrive at, in order to grapple with the problem completely. I will just point out to the House that the maps are of the kind that I have got in my hand. The map that I have in my hand is a thana map of police-station Sharisabari in Mymensingh district. The villages are marked out and the schools located. (A VOICE: When was the map prepared?) The survey was undertaken in the year 1936 and continued for nearly 2 years and is being continued still in order to bring the information up-to-date. I am not going to take any credit for the preparation of these maps because this Government is only a continuation of the previous Government. (A VOICE: In Everything.) Most certainly. The Government of the day stands. Only the power has been transferred from others to the representatives of the people. Now, Sir, after the survey was made, it was found that primary schools were most unevenly distributed. This was due to the fact that previously there had been no policy behind the expansion of primary education in the province. The survey having been made, it was found that something like a definite formula had to be found out for the location of these primary schools. There were two methods of doing it. One was what was known as the area method, namely, that there should at least be one primary school

in an area within a radius of one mile. The other was that there should at least be one primary school for a population of 2,000 souls.

Now, on either of these bases which could be applied as the circumstances of the day required we found that there would be necessary for purposes at least of rough calculation nothing less than about 50,000 of these schools spread throughout the province. There would be necessary about a lakh of trained teachers and 20 or 25 thousand as a reserve. The net result was that the cost of maintaining these schools would be somewhere between 2 and 3 lakhs——(Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Lakhs?)——I am sorry,—I mean 2 to 3 crores, and it was this money that had to be found in order to have a system of free primary education throughout the province.

Sir, I have waited long and anxiously and I thought that the Bengal Education Act of 1930 could be given effect to without taxation. But I confess now, as I have confessed previously, that all my attempts to find out an alternative solution have proved a failure. But I am not ashamed of confessing that I have not been able to find out an alternative method. No one has been able to find out an alternative method. I have in my hand a booklet on Indian education, and I find that in Madras they have an Elementary Education Act. They have an Education Act in Bombay, and they are going to have another to bring it up on modern lines, and they are going to have Education Acts in other provinces. We are not without a parallel in the matter of enforcement of an education cess so far as the other provinces are concerned. I have been reminded several times in the midst of interpellations and by means of remarks made in this House that there was a definite resolution last year that education should be imparted in primary schools and that these schools should be established without taxing the agriculturists. I submit that it is an absurdity to think of imposing an education cess and excluding the agriculturists as a class from the payment of that cess. There are many agriculturists who are able to pay, many agriculturists who are able to pay far more than even the landlords. The question is whether the cess should fall on those who are not able to pay, who are economically unable to bear the burden. That is one of the fundamental canons of taxation, and I freely admit that that is a canon which we have always kept in view. What is the incidence of this education cess in Bengal? A cultivator who has to pay Rs. 2 as *jama* has got to pay 7 pice in the year or ½ pice every month. And it is preposterous to argue, that a cultivator who has got some amount of land cannot pay half a pice a month for the purpose of getting free education for his children. As a matter of fact, he pays at present and without the cess many times more, and whenever I have been able to go out into the country I have met agriculturists and asked them about the education cess, but up to now I have not met a single agriculturist who has not admitted that he will be ready to pay the cess only if he can get primary education

for his children. That being the position, I am not prepared to accept what has been said on the floor of this House that this tax will tell heavily on the poor—nothing of the kind. On the contrary, if they take something from the poor, they will give many times more in return. Let us remember what Mr. Wordsworth has been good enough to tell us that free primary education cannot be had through any acts of charity. Nothing in this world which is worth having can be had for the mere asking; we have got to pay for it, and the only condition is that we are not made to pay more than the thing is worth.

Sir, I submit that primary education which is intended to be given by a system of trained teachers under healthy conditions and under all the requirements of modern life is something of a commodity which a cultivator cannot expect if he has to depend on his own means. I submit, therefore, that no sensible agriculturist would hesitate for a moment to pay this cess.

Now, Sir, having been convinced of this fact I decided that I should use the armoury that we have in our possession and go ahead with the expansion of primary education in this province. The position at the present moment is this—in 14 districts we have got School Boards under the Act. In 5 of these districts the education cess has been imposed and the Act is working. In 9 districts the cess had been imposed but was suspended on account of certain representations made to me. As regards the 5 districts, 3 of them, viz., Mymensingh, Dacca and Tippera, are very far advanced in the matter of the establishment of primary schools, and to-day in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction I have decided to allot the five lakhs of rupees to the districts which have taken upon themselves to pay the cess, in order to see that free primary schools are set up in these districts in the course of the next 3 or 4 months. I congratulate the people of Mymensingh, Dacca and Tippera on their good luck in being the pioneers in the matter of the introduction of primary education in rural areas.

As regards the other 9 districts, I have decided to withdraw the suspension order. There also the cess is going to be imposed. As regards the other 11 districts, I have passed orders for the establishment of District School Boards and I shall take the earliest opportunity to impose the education cess under the Act. I declare here and now that according to my calculation, within 12 to 18 months the whole of Bengal will see the Primary Education Act in operation and the whole of Bengal will either have primary schools or see a definite beginning in the matter of the establishment of primary schools.

I claim, Sir, that that will be an achievement of which the Government can well be proud. I feel a great relief now that I am able to tell this House and through the members of this House to the world outside that we have been able to solve the problem of the introduction

of primary education in this province. I congratulate the members of the Coalition Party for the fight they have put up and for the support they have given to me and for the encouragement I have received from them in the matter of the establishment of primary schools in Bengal. And at the same time I condemn the attempts that have been made throughout in order to hamper my efforts and to put obstacles in the way of the expansion of primary education and introduction of free and compulsory primary education in this province.

Sir, I will just say a few words regarding the motion moved by my friend Mr. Monmohan Das. He wants that a declaration should be made that the five lakhs set apart for the education of Scheduled Castes should be made a recurring grant. I wish to point out to my friend that Government is ready, has always been ready and will always be ready, to help Scheduled Castes students like the students of other communities by the grant of scholarships and stipends in India and abroad and in any other way help them in the matter of education. But, Sir, to earmark Rs. 5 lakhs a year, recurring, for the education of the Scheduled Castes is a proposition which, I am sorry, I cannot accept. If I am here to earmark Rs. 5 lakhs for Scheduled Castes alone, I will have to set apart for the Muslims—they are 30 times as big a community—Rs. 1,50,00,000 simply for the cause of Muslim education and so on and so forth. That will rouse a fight among all the communities till the education budget will dwindle into nothing, and you will have nothing for the other purposes for which the Government have to exist.

Therefore, I would implore my friend not to take up that attitude. We have provided for Rs. 5 lakhs. We may provide for even more, if necessary, and I can assure you that all facilities for the spread of education amongst the Scheduled Castes will be provided in the shape of scholarships, stipends and such other things (Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Without money!) It is no use disturbing me (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Let them bark.) That won't protect you from the enforcement of the education cess (Laughter.) I am determined to have primary education, and I will have it. (Cheers.)

Now, Sir, my friend Mr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee waxed eloquent over the meagre amount provided for Education in Bengal. Has my friend forgotten that since the time of which Mr. Wordsworth has spoken there has been an all-round demand on the resources of Government and for the expansion of the activities of the nation-building departments? Will he please remember for a moment that we have had to provide in this very budget for water-supply alone in rural areas something like Rs. 15 lakhs? Will he remember that the demand on the resources of Government for medical relief has gone up by leaps and bounds till it is at the present moment five times more of what it was 10 years back? (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Absurd!) Will he

remember that not only in the demand under "Public Health" and "Medical" but also under "Agriculture" and for other nation-building activities Government are faced with demands from various quarters and that the pressure on the resources of Government at the present moment is much more than what it was 10 years back? So far as the Calcutta University is concerned, it has come in for a larger share of money than it did before. Now, Sir, if that is so, it is no use saying that all the money that is at the disposal of Government should be spent for Education. Proportionately, we have been spending a good deal; and I think my friend will be wiser to consult the budgets of other provinces. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Ha, ha!) Why do you "Ha, ha"?

Mr. SPEAKER: I would appeal to honourable members not to interrupt the Hon'ble the Chief Minister as he is replying to the points raised by various speakers.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I submit, Sir, that when the Leader of the House is speaking he should have the uninterrupted attention of the House.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: You are not the Speaker!

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: They have got hysteria. Forgive them. (Laughter.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Not like you.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Then, Sir, as regards hostels for students, I have found in the course of my tours that Muslim students had absolutely no hostel accommodation in Barisal. Since then I have taken up the question of providing hostels not only for Muslim students but also for Hindu students, and this matter will come up before the House in due course. My friend Dr. Mookerjee may rest assured that in this matter of providing hostels for students I will not make the slightest distinction between Hindu and Muslim students. (Cheers.)

Now as regards Mrs. Hasina Murshed's complaint, I can only say that the matter will be duly considered, but I want only to remind honourable members that the question of primary education in Calcutta is more the concern of the Calcutta Corporation than that of the Government of Bengal. However, we do not want to shirk our responsibility, and this matter will certainly be taken into consideration.

As regards the Dacca University Bill, we propose to introduce it this year, and I hope that Dr. Mookerjee and myself, working together, may do some wonders so far as the Calcutta University also is concerned.

Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali has stressed the question of adult education. We have not forgotten the need of adult education which forms part of any rural uplift scheme. I can assure the honourable member that it is a part of our programme, and I congratulate him that he has started adult education in Bogra so well and so successfully. I hope it will be followed up in other districts as well.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is he reading from, Sir? Is that the "Bengal Weekly"?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, Sir, that we have a right to know what he is reading from.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Please sit down.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, there is one point to which I want to refer. As regards the Scheduled Castes, we have got a committee, and my friend Mr. Thakur has said that it is unrepresentative. On that committee, we have Mr. Hem Chandra Naskar, the leader of the Scheduled Castes group; we have got Mr. Kshetra Nath Singha, and we have got some others who are now sitting in the Opposition. I fail to understand, Sir, how such a committee can be called unrepresentative.

As regards primary education and adult education, we have got a committee of 25 members—mostly M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s—and they are considering all the questions relating to primary and adult education and submitting very useful suggestions to Government. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: But the meetings are not held!)

As regards the 5 lakhs of rupees, I have already made an announcement that it will be distributed in certain districts, and I am quite sure that those districts will have no difficulty now in having their full complement of primary schools.

As regards Maulvi Abdul Bari's remarks, I can say that it is more the concern of the Medical Department than of the Education Department. But this much I can tell him—that we have decided to have a board to deal with this question, and I hope that it will be an accomplished fact in the near future. As regards the other question, I can give him this assurance that after doing so much I shall not allow this question to be dropped simply for want of attention.

I do not want at the present moment to deal with other aspects raised. I have given a definite reply to all the speakers, but I want to express my regret that my friend Dr. Mookerjee should have referred to the Bill relating to the Secondary Education Board which has not yet been finally drafted. After it is finally drafted, there will certainly be time enough to consider it, but at the present moment it is somewhat premature to say what the provisions are or will be, and on the basis of whatever Dr. Mookerjee may have known previously or privately I think it is anything but fair to level an attack on Government.

As regards agricultural education, I can only say that it will form a part, and I think it already does form a part, of the curricula, but it depends on the District Schools Board to have the curricula suited according to the requirements of the various localities.

Sir, I wanted to take the House through certain figures, but I think it is unnecessary to do so

I hope and trust that the statement that I have made about going ahead with primary education will dispel the idea that Government have got no policy or programme Government have got a policy and a programme, and I think a more substantial and well-defined policy and programme than any other province in India (Loud applause)

The motion of Mr. Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs 1,53,56,000 under the head "37—Education General" be reduced by Rs 100 was then put and lost on a division

The division was taken with the following result:

AYES—61.

Abdel Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Aminuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Bannerjee, Mr. Manoranjan.
Barma, Babu Prembari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakraborty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Deini, Mr. Narendra.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Choudhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prosad.
Mansuruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Mullick, Srijut Asbutosh.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.

Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Ghare Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Thakur, Mr. Primatha Ranjan.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—121.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Bari, Maulvi.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Kader, Mr. alias Lal Meah.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shakoor, Maulvi Md.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Ali, Mr.
Aftab Hosain Jeardar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Bannerman, Mr. H. C.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Blomendeek, Mr. L. M.
Brasher, Mr. F. C.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Crosfield, Mr. L. M.
Das, Mr. Asutosh Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirti Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Farhat Banu Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M. B. E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Homan, Mr. F. T.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jalaluddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Maulvi.
Millar, Mr. C.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Muhammad Soleiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharraff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawasi Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada, K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sarker, Babu Hiralendra.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C. B. E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khandkar, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.

Sircar, Babu Lilla Nanda.
Smith, Mr. H. Prakash.
Steven, Mr. J. W. H.
Subrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, The Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Hafiz.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Whitehead, Mr. R. S.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. S.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 61 and the Noes 121, the motion was lost.

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 under the head "37—Education" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Promatha Ranjan Thakur that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 under the head "37— Education" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that the demand of Rs 1,53,56,000 under the head "37—Education" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Kazi Emdadul Haque that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 under the head "37—Education" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost

The motion of Mr. Monmohan Das that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 under the head "37—Education" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal that the demand of Rs. 1,53,56,000 under the head "37 Education" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion of the Hon'ble Mr A. K. Fazlul Huq that a sum of Rs. 1,53,56,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may announce that it will not be possible to take up "Anglo-Indian and European Education" to-day, in view of the fact that it is a very important demand. To-morrow I shall fix a time as to when this demand will be taken in consultation with those who are interested.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m., on Wednesday, the 15th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 15th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 214 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Realisation of agricultural loans in Bankura.

***197. Srijut ASHUTOSH MULLICK:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that there has been failure of crops this year in areas comprised within the thanas of Khatra, Indpur, Ranibund, etc., in the district of Bankura;

(*ii*) that measures are being adopted by officers of Government to realise agricultural loans advanced last year from the tenants in distress; and

(*iii*) that the tenants are suffering great hardships?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making enquiries into the matter and of issuing orders for suspension of certificate procedure for the realisation of such loans?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) There has been a partial failure of crops in certain parts of these thanas.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) No.

(*b*) Only loans granted in 1936-37 are being realised from those persons who are able to pay. No certificate will be issued against any person who is genuinely unable to pay.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*b*), where it is said that "no certificate will be issued against any person who is genuinely unable to pay" will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the criteria by which the officers hold that a tenant is genuinely unable to pay?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, it is impossible for Government to lay down any criteria, but the officers are expected to use their commonsense and decide on facts.

Rents by certificate procedure.

*198. **Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state in how many estates, *parganas* or *mauzas*, rents are at present being realised by certificates under the provision of section 99 of the Cess Act and by the process of garnishing?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Government gave an understanding through the Premier that all realisations of rents by certificates will remain stopped for two years?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for attachments under section 99 of the Cess Act and the procedure of garnishing?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that recently the Collector of Rangpur permitted certificates under garnishing procedure in a flood-affected *pargana*, i.e., Islamabad?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government intend to take in order to prevent repetitions of cases like that of *pargana* Islamabad?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Collection of rent under section 99 of the Cess Act is going on in 100 estates in 11 districts. As regards the Garnishee process no information is readily available.

(*b*) The understanding was that the certificate procedure for realisation of rent will be suspended for 2 years only in Crown estates and Court of Wards' estates.

(*c*) The understanding referred to in (*b*) above cannot be extended to dues to a local body, such as District Boards and Municipalities, who must be provided with sufficient funds if they are to function properly. If on the other hand they are to realise their cess and rate receipts by civil suits many of them would have to suspend, many of their activities to the great suffering of the rate-payers. The reason for attachment under section 99 of the Cess Act will be found in the section itself.

(*d*) A complaint to this effect has been received from some tenants of *pargana* Islamabad.

(*e*) The Collector of Rangpur has already been directed that the Garnishee procedure should not be used in areas affected by floods.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: With regard to answer (*b*), did not the understanding given by Government embrance all kinds of realisations of rents?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: What about private estates?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: As regards the question of private estates, section 158A being repealed, it was not covered by any promise. It was not necessary.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether money decree of a zemindar, not under the Court of Wards, is a thing which is under the garnishee law?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Any decree

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি অবগত আছেন যে অনেক জমিদারীতে বাকি খাজনা পর্য্যন্ত District Board এর dues এর জন্যে certificate কোরে আদায় করা হোচ্ছে?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, Sir, that is not a fact.

Gratuitous relief to the flood-affected people in Sadar subdivision, Pabna.

***199. Maulvi AZHAR ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the number of villages affected by the last flood in the Sadar subdivision of Pabna with its total population and number of families affected thereby?

(*b*) The number of persons relieved—

(*i*) by gratuitous relief; and

(*ii*) by agricultural loans,

including price of seeds for *rabi* crops and amount spent on each head separately?

(c) Is it a fact that in advancing agricultural loans and granting gratuitous relief a number of people having small holdings of their own but actually cultivating lands as *bargadars* were excluded?

(d) Is it a fact that the class of agriculturists mentioned in (c) having a number of members in the family, specially women and children unfit for any out-door works, have not got—

(i) any gratuitous relief; and

(ii) agricultural loan for smaller holding?

(e) If the answers to (c) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Government proposes for the safety of this class of cultivators of the district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (a) 1,039 villages with a total population of 508,325 and 89,207 families.

(b) (i) 50,851.

(ii) 34,634. Number of persons relieved thereby will be about five times this number taking the average number of members in each family to be 5.

Amount distributed as cash loans—Rs. 1,15,200.

For price of seeds for *rabi* crops—Rs 75,200.

(c) No.

(d) (i) The cases of disabled *bargadars* received careful consideration in the matter of gratuitous relief. Cases of women and children were also considered separately. Relief under a scheme of paddy-husking was offered to the women-folk.

(ii) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া করিয়া জানাইবেন কি যে পাবনা সদরে কত লোক affected হইয়াছে?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন কি যে জলপাইগুড়ি কনফারেন্সে জমীদারদের সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কোরে জমিহীন জমীদার চাষীদের সম্বন্ধে এই প্রশ্ন করা হয়েছিলো তখন তাদের সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ ভাবে বলা হয়েছিলো যে তারা ঋণ পাবে?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir, and Government have carried out the promise.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন কি পাবনা সদরের জমিহীন ভাগচাষীদের চাষীরা কত টাকা ঋণ স্বরূপ পেয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I ask for notice.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় হিসাব দেখে এটা লক্ষ্য কি কোরেছেন যে দুর্দ্দশাগ্রস্ত পরিবারদের জনসংখ্যার অনুপাতে প্রতি ৪ জনের মাথা পিছু এক টাকা কোরে সাহায্য করা হোয়েছে,—এই জিনিষটা তিনি কি লক্ষ্য কোরেছেন?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD ROY: Sir, the amount of loan given varied according to necessity.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় লক্ষ্য কোরেছেন কি যে যে টাকাটা সাহায্যস্বরূপ দেওয়া হোয়েছে তার সংখ্যা মাথা পিছু এক টাকার বেশী পড়ে না?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, the average does not prove anything here

Dalui Bazar Union Board.

***200. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware that the Burdwan District Board has recommended to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division to dissolve the Dalui Bazar Union Board in the month of October last?

(*b*) Have the Hon'ble Minister and the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division received any petition from the members of the said Union Board or any member of the Assembly on the subject?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the affairs of the said Union Board have now come to a deadlock;

(*ii*) that no tax of the last year has yet been realised; and

(*iii*) that no budget has yet been discussed?

(*d*) If the answers to (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have the Government taken to remove the disadvantages of the people within the said Union Board?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) The District Board passed a resolution in August last, recommending the dissolution of the Union Board.

(*b*) Petitions were received from certain members of the Union Board but none from any member of the Assembly.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) Orders for the dissolution of the Union Board and for holding a fresh election have been already issued.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া করে বোলবেন কি কোন্ তারিখে তিনি এই dissolution order দিয়েছেন?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I could not say the date but it was in the month of August.

Annual Reports of Chief Inspector of Boilers.

***201. Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether Government contemplate including in the Chief Inspector of Boiler's Annual Report of information

*(*a*) the number of boilers in each district of Bengal; and

(*b*) the amount of travelling expenses realised from the boiler owners of each district under Bengal Boiler Rules 12 (8) (*b*)?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): No, but for the information of the member a statement showing figures for the last 3 years so far as available is laid on the Library table

Adulteration of food.

***202. Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that inhabitants of the Narail and Lohagora police-stations in the district of Jessore are suffering from attacks of malaria, dysentery, kala-azar, cholera and beri-beri?

(*b*) Is it a fact that adulterated *ghee*, oil, milk, flour, etc., are sold in Naldi Bazar, Bramhan Danga Hat, Mithapur Hat, Lohagora police-station, and Pazas Kali Hat and Saraspur Hat in Narail police-station?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what steps, if any, have been taken for prohibition of sale of adulterated articles in those places;

(*ii*) how many times in the year 1938 have the Sanitary Inspectors in charge of those localities inspected those *bazars* and *hats* and on what dates?

(*iii*) how many shop-keepers were prosecuted in the same year;

(*iv*) what are their names; and

(*v*) what kind of food materials were analysed and with what results?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) Yes. These diseases occur in this area as in other parts of the district and of the province.

(*b*) Yes; but it is reported that such cases are at present of comparatively rare occurrence in these markets.

(*c*) (*i*) It is reported that the sanitary staff of the District Board exercises strict supervision over the sale of foodstuffs.

(*ii*) to (*iv*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*v*) Milk, mustard-oil and *ghee*. The samples were occasionally found to be adulterated.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (c) (ii) of starred question No. 202.

The Sanitary Inspector, Lohagora, visited these places 19 times—3rd January, 1938; 25th January, 1938; 9th February, 1938; 20th May, 1938; 23rd May, 1938; 26th May, 1938; 31st May, 1938; 10th June, 1938; 11th June, 1938; 14th June, 1938; 29th June, 1938; 5th August, 1938; 11th September, 1938; 12th September, 1938; 5th October, 1938; 16th October, 1938; 31st October, 1938; 16th November, 1938; and 19th December, 1938.

The Sanitary Inspector, Narail, visited the markets 11 times—16th February, 1938; 18th February, 1938; 26th February, 1938; 2nd March, 1938; 10th March 1938; 13th March, 1938; 16th March, 1938; 23rd May, 1938; 8th August, 1938; 23rd September, 1938; and 29th November, 1938.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (c) (iii) and (iv) of starred question No. 202.

Twelve, viz.:—

(1) Surendra Nath Mazumdar.
(2) Danes Shek.
(3) Surendra Nath Saha.
(4) Karim Shek.
(5) Rahaman Molla
(6) Mongal Shek.
(7) Chandan Shek.
(8) Barik Sardar.
(9) Abdul Malek Kazi.
(10) Pulin Behari Mandal.
(11) Hatem Biswas
(12) Kiran Chandra Saha.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (a), what preventive measures have been taken by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, the answer shows that the sale of adulterated articles is prohibited and as soon as such a sale is detected the people concerned are prosecuted

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what remedial measures have been taken?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I consider the measures taken to be remedial measures.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি জানেন যে sample নিয়ে পনর দিন কি এক মাস পরে সেই sample examine হোয়ে রিপোর্ট আসে এবং সেই রিপোর্ট যখন adulteration ধরা পড়ে তখন সে জিনিষ বিক্রয় শেষ হোয়ে যায় এই difficulty দূর করার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট কিছু কোরবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The present provision of the law does not provide for the contingency referred to by my honourable friend.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the articles of foodstuff supplied for Calcutta and elsewhere are adulterated and whether steps have been taken to prevent adulteration?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: So far as Calcutta is concerned, it is the look-out of the Calcutta Corporation.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to (*c*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us with the names referred to and whether any of them were prosecuted?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Transfer of Live-stock Department to Veterinary Department.

65. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Live-stock Department is under the Director of Agriculture?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what veterinary qualification does the Director of Agriculture possess?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that Government have decided that all the officers of the Live-stock Department should have veterinary qualification?

(*d*) Are the Government considering it advisable to transfer the Live-stock Department under the control of the Veterinary Department?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) Yes. The officer immediately in charge of the Animal Husbandry Branch is the Livestock Expert whose duty it is to advise the Director in matters relating to animal husbandry.

(*b*) None.

(*c*) No. On the contrary Government have decided that the Animal Husbandry Branch must contain officers of both types, viz., agricultural trained officers with special knowledge of dairy work and breeding and veterinary officers with special training in practical animal husbandry. In this matter Government are following the advice given to them by the Animal Husbandry Expert of the Government of India.

(*d*) Not at present. But recognising that the successful working of the Animal Husbandry Branch depends to a great extent on close co-operation between the Agriculture and the Veterinary Departments, Government have set up a Board of Animal Husbandry to direct and control the general policy of cattle improvement on which the Directors of Agriculture and of Civil Veterinary Department both serve as members.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন এই Live-stock Expert কোথায় কি ভাবে নিযুক্ত হয়েছেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Cattle epidemic in Tippera.

66. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department aware that there was a cattle epidemic last year in the district of Tippera?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, did the Government take to bring the situation under control?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in respect of Tippera—

(*i*) the approximate number of cattle that died last year; and

(*ii*) the number of veterinary hospitals existing there?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of establishing more veterinary hospitals in Tippera?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Yes

(*b*) The Veterinary staff did everything possible to control the epidemic. They attended 84 outbreaks covering 121 villages and protected 18,212 cattle by preventive inoculation

(*c*) (*i*) 1,610 cattle died in the district during the year 1937-38 from contagious diseases and other causes.

(*ii*) Two, namely, at Comilla and Brahmanbaria.

(*d*) According to the present policy of Government, the establishment of veterinary hospitals for the treatment of ordinary cattle diseases and injuries is the concern of the local bodies whereas Government is responsible for the prevention and control of contagious cattle diseases. At present, however, the local bodies contribute two-thirds of the cost on account of both the stationary veterinary staff in charge of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries and the itinerant staff employed on the work of control of contagious diseases. I have a scheme for enabling the local bodies to establish more veterinary dispensaries and hospitals, by relieving them of the contribution that they are at present paying for the entire itinerant staff and allowing them the advantage of the existing contributary system with regard to the stationary staff up to one assistant surgeon for each subdivision. Necessary funds have been provided in my budget for 1939-40 for relieving the District Boards of the contribution for the whole of the existing itinerant staff. It is expected that

with the relief thus given, the local bodies will be able not merely to establish one veterinary hospital or dispensary at each subdivision on the existing contributary system but also to establish many more entirely at their own expense out of the savings that will accrue from their exemption for any contribution for the itinerant staff. My scheme provides also for increasing the itinerant staff so as to have at least two itinerant assistant surgeons for each subdivision so that we shall have at least two itinerant veterinary assistant surgeons and one stationary veterinary assistant surgeon for each subdivision *plus* as many stationary assistant surgeons as the local bodies may establish out of the savings caused by their exemption from the contribution for the itinerant staff and from their own resources.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the veterinary staff keep a diary of their itineraries?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I think so.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the strength of the veterinary staff in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

42—Co-operation.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 15,33,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation".

In presenting this demand to the House, I do not think I should take too long of the time of the honourable members at this stage. I need only indicate in brief some of the steps that we have taken in furtherance of the policy of consolidation, that I enunciated at the time when I presented my budget under this head last year. I shall not attempt at a discussion of the position of the Provincial Bank or the Central Banks. Nor shall I say anything about the interest an ultimate borrower has now to pay which has been considerably reduced.

For better supervision and control of the societies, the charge of the Assistant Registrar and the Inspector has been reduced by increasing the cadre; and now 12 to 15 hundred societies have been allotted to one Assistant Registrar and 200 societies to one Inspector——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of information, Sir. Before we proceed very far, can we ascertain from the Hon'ble Minister how long he will take?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Not more than ten minutes, Sir.

For better supervision and control of the industrial societies, and for development of handloom industry, an Industrial Assistant Registrar has been working with his staff. He has succeeded in improving the quality of hand-woven textiles, and also in increasing the output of these societies.

A Women's Branch for developing the handloom industry has been organised by starting a Women's Industrial Home at Dum Dum. The staff for this organisation has been supplied out of the Government of India handloom grant.

The Audit Branch has now been placed under the control of the Chief Auditor of the department, and separation of audit from supervision has been given effect to in some districts. It will be fully implemented after the officers are discharged from the training class. It is expected that this will not only improve the quality of audit, but will also serve as an effective safeguard against defalcation.

For more efficient management of Central Banks, departmental officers have been lent to them at their request to serve as Chief Executive Officers.

For speedy settlement of the debts of the co-operative members, Special Co-operative Debt Settlement Boards have been established in the area of the Central Banks, and similar Boards have also been established to facilitate the work of the Land Mortgage Banks. A scheme for expansion of Land Mortgage Banks on a co-operative basis is under consideration of Government.

A comprehensive scheme for reconstruction of the entire agricultural credit movement by rehabilitation of the financial position of the Central Banks and for affording further facilities to these banks to supply short-term credit to the agriculturists is now being examined by Government, and I hope to indicate in my reply the steps that may be taken in this direction. I stated the other day in reply to a question that at the initial stage a survey had been undertaken to find out the assets and liabilities of the individual members of the societies. This having been done the next step under consideration is to have their liabilities brought within their realisable assets and to spread the same over a reasonable number of years, so that the past chapters will be absolutely closed and will not be mixed up with the future. It may be necessary in this process to weed out a few of the useless primary societies and to put the rest on sounder and more workable basis.

The idea further is that Land Mortgage Banks will cater to the financial needs on a long-term basis while the Central Banks will do so strictly on a short-term basis. But all this must take some time for receiving a final shape.

There had been a large number of co-operative conferences during the last year in various parts of the province. I myself had the honour of opening some of them where I made it a point to get into close touch with the people, especially the members of the village co-operative societies, and to get to know the local conditions.

It must be admitted that regard being had to the difficulties felt in the past, the policy of expansion must be very cautious. We have, however, been able to increase the number of all classes of societies from 24,221 to 24,282.

Two Sugarcane Growers Co-operative Societies' Unions consisting of 60 Growers' Societies have been organised at Gopalpur and Setabgunj in the districts of Rajshahi and Dinajpur. Necessary staff for the management of these societies has been provided from the Government of India grant out of sugarcane excise duty. The entire short-term loans necessary for the purchase of cuttings have been supplied by the Provincial Bank.

Two Fishermen Societies on a large scale have been organised at Chittagong and Noakhali for giving fair price to the *bona fide* fishermen for their catches. The Chittagong Fishery Society took a loan of Rs. 45,000 from the Provincial Bank in October, 1938, and the value of their catches is estimated to be more than Rs. 65,000. The Society has already repaid the greater portion of the loan. Another Fishery Society has been registered at Goalundo. One officer of the department has been trained in fishery in Madras.

A serious attempt has been made in Parbatipur area in the district of Dinajpur to link up credit with marketing, and as a result a paddy sale society on a large scale has been established there, in which the members of the credit societies affiliated to the Dinajpur Central Bank have become members for the marketing of their produce. The scheme has worked satisfactorily, and the members are getting six annas more per maund of paddy than what they used to get during the last three or four years. It is intended to introduce this scheme in the areas of other Central Banks where there is prospect for the success of such schemes.

A fair number of better-living societies has been organized on co-operative basis, some of which have introduced subsidiary occupation in the agricultural and cottage industry field for their members in order that they might increase their income. A staff of ten Inspectors has been sanctioned to supervise the work of these societies. The possibilities are very great, and it is hoped that the real aims of co-operation will be realized by the members.

It appears that some of the honourable members desire to discuss a very important problem, viz., the supply of rural credit which is facing us at the present moment. I would, therefore, desire to hear their points of view, and hope the discussion will give us some constructive ideas as to how this difficult problem can be solved. I hope I shall not be misunderstood when I say once again that co-operation to foster and to develop must depend upon the good-will of all concerned.

With these words, Sir, I put my demand formally before the House for its acceptance.

Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the cut motion that stands in my name, viz., that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the moribund condition of the co-operative movement in the province.

Sir, the latest figures disclose a state of affairs which is discouraging to a degree. After 35 years that the movement of co-operation has been in existence in this province, the total number of societies has been 24,221. Out of this, "A" class societies are only 36, "B" class societies 375; "C" class societies 13,214; "D" class societies 2,935 and "E" class societies 2,345. It will not be out of place here to explain to you the classification that I have just made. In circular No. 8 of 1914, societies have been classified as I have just indicated. "A" is good; "B" is fair; "C" means average, i.e., societies in which the general working is not satisfactory; "D" bad; "E" hopeless. An "A" class society has been described in this way: "A society should not be classed as 'A' if the general body of members do not understand the co-operative principle, although it may satisfy the other tests laid down for 'A' class societies. Out of about 25,000 societies then which are spread over as a network throughout the province, only 36 are real co-operative societies, i.e., only these 36 societies have been founded and conducted on truly co-operative lines, and the rest are co-operative societies only by courtesy. This is the state of affairs in this province.

Now, I will ask you to turn to the picture of the co-operative movement in other parts of the world. In Great Britain the total turnover of the co-operative movement in 1937 amounted to about 10 per cent. of the total retail trade of the country. This ten per cent. means 327 crores of rupees, and out of this, grants for educational purposes amount to 3 crores of rupees. In Finland, a very small country, 30 per cent. of the total retail trade is now in the hands of two co-operative movements, viz., one which is conservative and neutral, while the other is progressive and in alliance with labour and socialist movements of that country. Denmark is the land of co-operation and there no less than one-third of the population are members of some

co-operative society or other. Practically, the whole of the marketing of the produce in Denmark is carried on co-operative lines. The co-operative movement has immense possibilities. Poverty can be abolished. Unemployment can be mitigated. Insecurity and fear can be replaced by security and hope. It has failed here, Sir, not because of the want of sympathy or apathy of the people but because of the deliberate policy of Government in not allowing the people to initiate any movement. Sir Robert Carlyle in 1911, while introducing the Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council, said: "It is of the utmost importance to the healthy and successful development of the movement that Government interference should be reduced to a minimum." Yet what do we find? Sir, as you know, though I cannot disclose to you the secrets of the deliberations of the Select Committee of which I happen to be a member, the Bill is there which reflects the intention of the Government and shows that every attempt had been made to officialise the movement to an extent that nobody could dream of, although we hope to improve upon the Bill in the Select Committee. (Dr NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Shame, shame.) (Laughter from the Treasury Benches.)

May I then pause here for a moment to enquire into the causes of this "Rotten state of things in Denmark"? First of all, the movement, if it is to be successful in the real sense of the term, must be inspired by a spirit of idealism without which no movement can hope to achieve what it has in view. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Congress Benches.)

Then, Sir, quality has never been looked upon as the *sine qua non* of the foundation of a society. All officers, from the highest to the lowest, have been anxious for the expansion of the movement and have thus sacrified quality at the altar of quantity. Sir, if the co-operative movement has got to succeed, the only effective course to adopt is to provide for a systematic and thorough education of those interested in it—from the lowest to the highest, from the Secretaries and officers of the village societies to the Manager of the Provincial Co-operative Bank and the Registrar of the Co-operative Department, but, Sir, there have been up till now no facilities for the provision of their education on co-operative lines. There has been certainly an institute at Dum Dum for this purpose out of a grant made by the Government of India for rural reconstruction purposes, but so far as my knowledge goes, and I know at first hand that the instructions there are given only to the higher officers of the department, and the rank and file of the workers of the co-operative movement have been given as yet no chance there. Nobody knows when they will be given a chance. If you are really in earnest to advance co-operative movement, you have got to begin at the bottom and then from the bottom you have got to rise to the top. Last but not the least, I shall come to the cases of nepotism and

corruption that have cropped up in the department. Before doing that, I will draw your attention to the judgment of the Assistant Sessions Judge, Hooghly, in the famous defalcation case of the Hooghly Central Bank. He said, amongst other things, unless the movement be manned by honest and efficient persons, unless the check of the Co-operative Department be more effective and efficient, unless the system of auditing be more adequate and thorough, it would be rather safer for the public that such banks should cease to exist. A greater indictment could not have been pronounced than this pronouncement of the Assistant Sessions Judge of Hooghly. Even now the cases of defalcation, corruption and nepotism which are certainly within the knowledge of the department have not been enquired into in spite of the repeated and insistent demands of the members of this House during the last two budget discussions. Sir, I will now give you some instances of nepotism which have come to my knowledge. I have for the last few months been taking an active interest in finding out cases of nepotism and corruption in the department and I will place them before you for your consideration and necessary action. A certain gentleman has been made an Assistant Registrar, a gentleman who has not even, or only, passed the Entrance Examination

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I hope that the member will kindly see that no names are mentioned. You can mention the office, if you wish

Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJI: This Khan Sahib now an Assistant Registrar was removed by wire in 1926 from Chandpur where he was an Inspector and that has been recorded in his service book, what relationship does he bear to the present Registrar?

Another gentleman, the present Divisional Auditor of Calcutta, who was too junior and was posted at Chinsurah where he could not detect defalcation cases of Chinsurah, was elevated to the post after supersession of the claims of 49 superior officers ("Hear, hear" from the Opposition Benches); what relationship has he with the present Registrar and whether his work at Chinsurah has been thoroughly enquired into?

Another gentleman who was a clerk of the present Registrar when he was Inspector of Co-operative Societies at Madaripur, was in charge of audit of the South Calcutta Co-operative Society at the time of enquiry into its affairs and whether this auditor had been sent to Madras for fishery training after superseding the claims of 200 senior and qualified officers? Is this gentleman a brother-in-law of the present Registrar and to crown all, has he either a *shwambhumi* or *benami* house in Calcutta?

Another non-Matriculate has been made an Inspector; he has been stopping at Comilla, his home, without any transfer for about a decade. Is he also a cousin of the present Registrar? I am afraid, Sir, I could have multiplied instances to show how the department is being carried on. This is so far as nepotism is concerned. Now let me come to corruption. Let me place before you at the very outset a photographic copy of a statement which I have fortunately come across in the handwriting of one Jagadish Prasad Bose. He says: "There is a Co-operative Society at Bhawanipore, namely, South Calcutta Co-operative Society. Its Secretary is one R. N. Ganguly and a personal friend of the Registrar. This gentleman was introduced to me by one Bose, an assistant of the Co-operative Department."

(Here the member reached the time-limit and was allowed 1 minute to finish his speech.)

He was approached by this gentleman for advances of money, not for the purposes of investment, but for the purpose of helping and obliging the Registrar and his subordinates.

Sir, this is the state of affairs in the Co-operative Department. If you mean to make co-operation a movement and not a Government policy only, if you want to build societies on co-operative lines, the best thing for you would be to follow the example which has been tried in other countries. Co-operation presents itself already in England as an alternative to the existing predatory system of capitalism. Let us emulate the example of Great Britain and be inspired by the belief that in co-operation mankind can achieve everything it is capable of being, becoming and achieving.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to preserve and extend the rural societies and to extend sources of rural credit.

When the first budget of the present Government was presented, I drew attention to different problems through a note circulated at that time. These included the failure of different classes of Co-operative Societies to function properly, corruption and maladministration of the department in different directions, failure of the administration to check defalcations and questionable practices in the societies, favouritism and patronage in the selection of the staff, unhealthy interference by the Registrar and his officers and the need for an independent and impartial enquiry into the entire field of co-operative movement. These were thereafter emphasized by me again and again. While repeating the same old demands, I propose

to pass on to another aspect of the movement to-day and I hope and trust that the constructive suggestions I propose to put forward to-day will receive careful attention.

I would like to-day, to draw your attention to the utter impossibility of the rural population to obtain credit and to what extent the co-operative movement can be made to help these rural people at the present time. Partly on account of the effects of certain legislations and partly on account of economic depression, money market in the rural areas to-day is thoroughly depleted and it has been extremely difficult for the people to obtain even small amounts of loans for carrying on agricultural pursuits. Under such circumstances people are looking forward to the Co-operative Department increasingly for coming forward to help them in their great distress. The increasing demand of the public is evidenced through many suggestions made from time to time in the press and on the platform and also I understand members of the Coalition Party themselves have pressed the Government from time to time in this connection. The income of the average cultivator and other rural population is so small and uncertain that they cannot dispense with credit altogether as some members of the Assembly seem to think

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Question

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is difficult to proceed if members question facts. I have stated this on evidence and the fact remains that some members in a particular Select Committee pressed such arguments

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: No

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is regrettable that people would be thinking that agricultural pursuits could be carried on without any advance whatever and that they should think that if we to-day stop all sorts of credit it will be doing good to the people. It is impossible to ensure improvement in agricultural methods without extension of credit facilities and as a matter of fact it is even impossible to keep a cultivator going on in his ordinary agricultural pursuit without some kind of advance.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: We all agree to that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If that be so, my friends opposite should realise that ill-conceived attempts at drastic reduction of the burden of indebtedness without corresponding provision for the supply of credit are likely to create more hardship than afford relief. The

Bombay Debt Redemption Bill accordingly provides simultaneous encouragement, simultaneous arrangement for the financing of current crops by co-operative societies or bodies approved by Government, while seeking to relieve agricultural indebtedness through debt boards. The Bombay legislation proposes that there should be debt redemption only for such agricultural debtors who personally cultivate their lands and who are members of any "resources society" approved by Government, so that relief may be sought by those actual tillers of the soil for whom some arrangement can be made to supply current credit from some sources. In the absence of other organised credit agencies including co-operative societies, the *mahajans* to-day provide the bulk of credit requirements in our villages although their rate is high and methods are sometimes exacting. For many years the supply of rural credit must still continue to come from private sources, either the *mahajans* or the *aratdars* or the landlords' agents or some agriculturists who are comfortably berthed. A large expansion of the co-operative movement on a reorganised basis is therefore called for, if not to supply a large part of the rural credit requirements at least to create such economic influence as may keep down the rate of interest and restrain the exaction of the village *mahajans*.

Questions have been raised as to whether it is possible for Government directly to finance agriculturists and come to the aid of the individual cultivators. I am afraid, it would not be possible for the Government to bring relief to each and every individual cultivator on a large scale as a general method of financing agriculture. A very interesting enquiry was conducted by an able officer Dewan Bahadur Mudaliar in Orissa. He said: "For more than one reason, direct financing of the tenants or the *ryots* individually either through a State bank or the revenue staff, is neither desirable nor expedient." Nor is a State bank run and managed by Government as a permanent measure a suitable machinery for supplying credit.

(Here the member reached his time-limit but at the request of several members of the House he was allowed to finish his speech.)

A State bank cannot be expected to deal with the continuous yet fluctuating credit requirements of a large class of rural population. Direct financing by Government in any large scale under present circumstances will kill private enterprise and may not ultimately be to the good of the country because it is open to different influences not always healthy. For a Government dependent on democratic support such a venture is likely to lead to endless troubles both when advances have got to be made and when realisations have got to be collected. Financing, therefore, through co-operative societies is the best means so far known and there is hardly any suitable alternative to Government helping agriculturists through well-organised co-operative societies. Co-operation means much more than mere provision of credit

and through helping the co-operative societies Government can ensure more benefit than mere finding the necessary credit for the people.

A suggestion that the provincial co-operative bank should be put in funds sufficiently by Government at a low rate of interest to enable lending to primary societies at reasonable rates deserves consideration. But before this is done, the organisation of the provincial bank and its controlling authority should be suitably changed, so that the bank may function purely as a banking institution and run on sound business lines. The Central Bank and the primary societies may be required to follow the directions of the provincial banks generally in regard to their policy and working, if they seek the financial help of the provincial bank. A network of co-operative banking institutions may soon be established—one in each two union boards, for example,—with the central banks functioning as the local branches of the provincial banks which remain as the apex.

Until the confidence of the investing public is restored by placing the movement once again on a sound footing Government should be liberal in helping the provincial bank with funds. As the bank gradually receives deposits after restoration of confidence of the depositors Government may withdraw their financial assistance.

The machinery that considers and sanctions loans should be so devised as may be least affected by influences to which a democratically elected executive is generally subject or accustomed. Till our villagers are educated properly in the principles and responsibilties of co-operation the principles of sound banking cannot be and must not be ignored. Apart from the measures to finance the co-operative societies through funds obtained from Government every attempt should be made to attract private funds for strengthening rural credit institutions, for, after all, Government resources can at most supply only a small fraction of the total requirements. With this in view measures should be taken to ensure repayment of the present debts due to depositors within a reasonable time. "If the past memories are not obliterated by ready payment of matured deposits, the work of reconstruction, however, well-intentioned, will be difficult."

Arrangements should be made for more assured collection of the debts due to primary societies and to Central Banks, specially where the debtor is able to pay but is not sufficiently willing. This covers such legislation which may be resorted to for facilitating collection. Assurance should be given for adequate protection of depositors of co-operative societies from expropriatory legislation, and from irresponsible action by careless Boards of management and great caution should be exercised in enacting future legislation relating to the administration of co-operative societies, and the business of money lending.

The future structure of rural credit must be based on a scientific division of functions between co-operative credit societies on the one hand and properly managed public joint stock banks on the other, the days of private money-lenders and *mahajans* being more or less numbered. It should not be difficult to allocate the principal function of supplying comparatively long-term credit through co-operative societies while leaving the supply of short-term credit to the joint stock banks acting under the guidance of Government. The nature of securities offered for the two sets of credit will be different, the joint stock banks being encouraged to advance mainly on the security of agricultural produce deposited in the banks' warehouses located at suitable centres in rural areas

The possibilities of establishing proper land-mortgage banks, of conversion of certain locked-up deposits into debentures guaranteed by Government, of rateable repayment of the deposits from recoveries arranged by Government and other administrative reforms should also be carefully examined.

In particular, both for re-establishing public confidence as well as for improving the working of the societies and central banks the auditing of co-operative institutions should be made entirely independent of the Registrar and his office, and the appointment, transfer, promotion, etc., of the Auditors should in no way be dependent on the recommendation or suggestion of the Registrar or his staff who may be concerned with the administration of the department. I may draw attention to the very excellent suggestion made by the Minto Professor of Economics of the Calcutta University in this connection that the audit should better be left in the hands of the Auditor-General as in the case of local bodies. And further, as Dewan Bahadur Mudaliar suggests, the nature of the audit, should not be merely an audit of the accounts, but like business-houses the Auditor should make a statement of the financial position of each body, that is to say, make a proper valuation of the assets and liabilities

And for all the above an immediate appointment of a special officer of independent views, of experience and ability in the management of credit institutions and capable of commanding the confidence of all sections is what I demand (applause).

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand amounting to Rs. 15,33,000 under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequate provision for rural credit with a view to reduce agricultural indebtedness and for the improvement of agriculture.

Rural indebtedness, Sir, is like a chronic disease in our society. But the pity is that our country people are not yet alive to the danger

of the bankruptcy of the rural population. Therefore it is desirable that some analysis of the situation should be made before I proceed with my motion.

The Banking Enquiry Committee of 1930 enquired into the matter of rural indebtedness and they found that the agricultural population are indebted to the amount of Rs 100 crores. Now if the arrear rent of an equal amount were added to it, it will be found that actually the agriculturists in Bengal are indebted to the amount of Rs. 200 crores. Against this liability the assets of our agriculturists are nothing but the agricultural lands, the family reserve in the shape of ornaments and utensils and their plough—cattle including bullocks and buffaloes. It is now a matter of common knowledge that the family metallic reserves of the agriculturists are not in existence. They have already sold them away for want of money. The only property now they have got is their culturable land and the cattle which they possess for going on with their agriculture. From the cattle census of 1930 we find that the agricultural population of Bengal possesses 16 crores of bullocks and buffaloes. Taking the average price of each of the cattle to be 5 rupees, we see that the cattle will bring only Rs. 80 crores. And the same Banking Enquiry Committee found that the 23 million acres of culturable land of Bengal could bring a price of Rs. 690 crores taking Rs. 300 as the price per acre of land in Bengal. But unfortunately the time is now not favourable and the price of land has dwindled. It can now be assessed at Rs. 25 per bigha and therefore taking the mean or the average price of land, the Bengal's whole culturable land will not bring more than Rs. 150 crores. Therefore, Sir, it is seen that all the valuables of the agriculturists have—I mean the landed property as well as the cattle which they use for their agriculture—will bring a sum of Rs 200 crores. Even if they sell their be all and end all it will not be possible for them to clear the outstanding debt including the arrears of rent. Now, Sir, if this be the position how will the agriculturist come out from this difficulty? It is, therefore, suggested that a drastic scaling down of debt in proportion to the fall of the price of agricultural produce should be made. When they incurred the debt the value of the agricultural commodity and specially jute was very high. Taking for example the jute, jute sold at that time at Rs. 20 per maund and when the agriculturist took a loan of Rs. 100 he could pay back 5 maunds for Rs. 100. (A VOICE: When was that?) Before 1930. Now he will get only Rs. 30 for that amount of jute. Therefore, the loan must be cut down at least to one-third. A drastic reduction in rent also must be made so that he may come out from this difficulty.

Now, Sir, with respect to agricultural credit I submit that the Banking Enquiry Committee ascertained that Rs. 96 crores would

be required for only short-term credit for the agriculturists but what the Government have done at present is, we have got some agricultural societies. The working capital of those societies is only Rs. 6 crores and the land-mortgage banks have a working capital of only Rs. 3,50,000.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Sir, all-round and continued economic depression and other causes have almost killed rural and agricultural credit in Bengal, and it is extremely necessary to restore the same. Banking facilities are a vital need of the rural population, and particularly of the cultivators. An attempt should be made as early as possible to fill up the gap created by the virtual ejectment of the village bankers from the field. The more one thinks about it, the more perturbed one feels. Something has to be done and that without any further delay. The peasantry of a country cannot develop without banking facilities. More co-operative banks of the right co-operative type advancing money at the rate of 5 per cent. interest and only for productive activities or genuine pressing needs seem to be urgently necessary. The Co-operative Department is the only machinery which can tackle the problem of rural credit and agricultural welfare. In support of that, Sir, I would quote an extract from the speech of Sir James Taylor C.I.E., Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in his speech at the annual meeting of the shareholders held at the Victoria Public Hall at Madras in February last "In the bulletins which are issued from this department from time to time we have endeavoured to show how the problem of rural betterment can best be tackled by a comprehensive programme designed to improve every aspect of the life of the cultivator. We have also indicated that in our opinion the most suitable agency for this purpose is the co-operative society. In spite of its defects and failures, which in many respects are only too apparent to-day, we still consider that on the whole it presents the most practical method of tackling this problem, provided it is reconstructed, where necessary, and revitalized so as to serve as an effective instrument for the improvement of agriculture from every point of view."

Sir, what I was going to say is this that there should be one such bank for each block of 4 or 5 unions, if not more. To these banks money can be provided by the Government by floating debentures or in any other way Government think best. These banks will perform diversity of functions. I will ask for the co-ordination of the Agriculture, Co-operative and the Industries Department in this matter. These banks on one side will finance the cultivators and

help them to liquidate their old debts. On the other side, these banks would arrange for the more profitable marketing of their produce. And the Co-operative Department ought to take a greater interest in the matter of introducing cottage industries for agricultural population as subsidiary and for others as primary, as they have got a good number of officers spread all over the country, and these officers—I mean the Supervisors and the Auditors, etc.,— of the subordinate rank have not got enough work to do, particularly in the slack season when they have not got to do any collection or other work. These officers of the co-operative banks should be sufficiently trained (1) to develop co-operative spirit and co-operative credit; (2) to look after the marketing of produce; (3) to run and look after agricultural farm and cattle; (4) to spread cottage industries in rural areas. Possible objections may be raised to this idea—(1) that the same persons cannot look after so many things; (2) that the same persons cannot be trained and qualified to do so many things. My reply to the first objection is that in a small and limited area it is really possible and practicable for the same set of persons to discharge all these functions simultaneously. In fact, as they will be in close and constant touch with the people in that limited area, they will have a positive advantage in every branch, over separate experts from outside howsoever qualified. Co-operative marketing should be really more the concern of the Co-operative Department than that of anybody else With regard to agricultural development, certainly special training will be needed, but the outlying agricultural farms are not intended to be research laboratories. Cottage industries require commonsense and no special training for introducing and developing them What is wanting is the driving interest and the administrative backing, and no one will be better fitted than the co-operative banks for the rural welfare in all these directions as they would be in the position of the master of the purse—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to supply rural credit.

In moving this cut motion, I want to draw the attention of the members of the happy family, particularly the Minister in charge of the department to the helpless and wretched condition of the people of the countryside. The devastating flood that occurred last year throughout length and breadth of Bengal caused untold misery and hardship to the poor cultivators. Failure of crops due to flood and other causes has reduced the agriculturists to abject poverty. Their sorrow and

sufferings know no bound. The cultivators of the flood affected area are on the verge of extinction. With great difficulty they are continuing their existence, half-naked and half-starved, Notwithstanding their such pitiable condition they have got to make provision for the coming year. They are now required to plough the lands and sow seeds. But, where to get their cost from? For want of money, most of the lands are remaining uncultivated. It will not be out of place here to give specific instances, of which I have got personal knowledge. Sir, acute distress prevails among the peasants of North Bakarganj and South Faridpur, specially in the Madaripur and Gopalganj subdivisions where most of the lands are remaining fallow for want of capital, to meet the cost of seeds and other requisites. The meagre sum that has been advanced by the Government as agricultural loan is being given at the rate of Rs. 5 per capita. But this small sum is not sufficient even to meet the cost of ploughing, not to speak of seeding and weeding. It is apprehended that 40 per cent. of the land of this locality will remain uncultivated this year. Debt Settlement Board has so much tightened the money market of the villages that it is simply impossible to borrow a farthing even from the mahajans.

Sir, the authors of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act had cherished a very soft corner in their mind for the heavily indebted agriculturists, but they were quite oblivious of the consequential results it would bring upon the rural credit. With the formation of Debt Settlement Boards in some localities village money-lenders have totally stopped their money-lending business It has caused indescribable havoc in the money market of the village. As a consequence cultivators have fallen in great difficulty as to how to secure loans which they badly need almost every year at the time of cultivation. Perhaps such an exigency was not anticipated by the makers of this Act. They ought to have made sufficient provision for affording cheap credit to the agriculturists. On the contrary they have callously overlooked the matter. In the absence of any provision for supplying rural credit the Agricultural Debtors Act is being considered as a machinery of tyranny and repression not only by the creditors but the debtors also for whose benefit it was meant. It may be aptly described as an instrument that has struck both the legs of the cultivator without supplying him any other support to stand on.

Sir, for some time past we have been told about the establishment of agricultural banks. But up till now nothing appreciable has been done in this direction. I am afraid the agriculturists will not survive to enjoy the privilege derived from them.

The only institutions that supply credit to the cultivators at present are the co-operative banks. But unfortunately these banks are not functioning well. Inadequacy of their number and capital combined with the stringent and vexatious formalities has rendered them

extremely unpopular. The poor, illiterate and unsophisticated peasants of our country are not in a position to avail of the little opportunities afforded by such co-operative banks.

Sir, to add to the miseries of the village people the Government have suspended the formation of new co-operative societies at a time when their necessity is the greater on the plea of the pendency of the Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill before the Assembly. The Government have not acted wisely in this regard. Has the Minister in charge of the department any sympathy for the peasants whom he pretends to represent? Has he got any idea of the distress of the village people? Has he conceived what their condition will be next year if for want of money they cannot cultivate their lands this year? I must ask him to give serious consideration to the whole matter and find out some means to supply rural credit. Of all the problems of the day it is of supreme importance. No distress is more acute, no necessity is more pressing. If the Government do not like to see the coming year worse than the current one, they should immediately direct their attention to this issue.

Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, I don't like to move the cut motion which stands in my name, but I like to discuss about the co-operative movement in Bengal.

Sir, the co-operative movement was taken in hand on the belief that natural development of the progress of the movement will eradicate the evil of usury and lighten the burden of rural indebtedness through the agency of co-operative credit societies but, we now find that the movement has not been able to improve materially the condition of the agriculturists; on the contrary debts have increased to such an alarming extent that members are on the verge of ruin, the assets of the banks have become frozen and they are unable even to finance the societies any further. The functions of the Central Banks are now, therefore, confined mainly to the realization of old debts by persuasion or putting the societies into liquidation.

Owing to the operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act the local money-lenders have stopped the traditional small loans which they hitherto used to give in times of real need and distress, and to add to their misfortune this year's abnormal flood has put the agriculturists in a very deplorable condition. Taking advantage of their helplessness, village mahajans are trying to purchase lands of the cultivators at a nominal price. Government, no doubt, is giving small loans in some cases, but that is not sufficient to meet the general demand. The mahajans are still hoarding their money in the banks and they have still got sufficient funds at their disposal. In fact, there is no want of money, but really there is want of credit. Rural credit is to be revived through the intercession of Government.

So, my proposal is that a net-work of village societies ought to be established and Government should come forward with a bold policy to finance them through the Central Provincial Banks.

I have already pointed out that there is no dearth of money—what is required is only credit. Government should, therefore, stand surety just as the Government of India has done for the Reserve Bank of India, and the provincial banks, on the strength of Government surety, can float a big loan in the market at a low rate of interest. The Provincial Bank in its turn can advance sufficient amount of money to the Central Banks and they in their turn can advance money to the rural societies. Government may also stand surety for the deposits in the Central Banks. This will bring into the banks' vaults a large amount of deposits. The Central Banks may thus also be financed in this way.

But at the same time steps should be taken to see that village banks do not advance money indiscriminately or on insufficient security, nor do they grant loans for unnecessary expenditure.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the motion that stands in my name viz., that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the method employed for collection of dues from rural societies.

Sir, to me it appears that the whole co-operative movement in this province has failed to fulfil its mission. This movement was ushered in in this province with the object of improving the condition of the people and to make them happy and prosperous, but we are disappointed in that respect. The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the department has at the very outset contrived to console us by saying that he has formulated a scheme for the redemption of the people, but our past experience has shown that whatever is said by Government in this behalf does not come out true eventually. A few years back, the Co-operative Department tried to flood the country with rural credit societies. It was then that Government said that they were the best friends of the people, that the people who would listen to their words would see halcyon days, that they would be their guide, their helper and their friend in need, but as soon as the rural people met with adversity they first turned their back towards them. They no longer remained friend of the rural populace but became cruel and hard-hearted and resorted to repressive measures in the matter of realisation of their dues. Sir, the way in which dues are realised from the village folk by the Co-operative Department beggars description. The appointment of officers of the superior grade, however able they may be, cannot ease the position of the people unless they have a mind to do so. Now, the whole Co-operative Department has set its heart on

the expansion of the co-operative moment by increasing officers of the department and these officers have resorted to the plan of realising their dues by hook or by crook. Now, the greater the number of officers, the greater is the repression, the greater is the trouble to the society peasants. It is the lot of the peasants to go every day to a field for their daily bread, but these officers one after another run after them, they catch hold of them and prevent them from going to the field to do their daily work even when the harvest is in full swing. The peasants are detained, tortured and by seizing their cattle, plough, seeds and sundry other assets and by puting force in carrying on all sorts of *zoolum*, the like of which nobody has ever seen, the officers of Co-operative Department perform their sacred duties. The proverbial *zoolum* of the Kabulis is nothing compared to the *zoolum* that is being carried on by the Co-operative Department nowadays. It is not in the interests of the people that they should take money from the Co-operative Department even.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr Speaker, Sir, I speak as one concerned with, and concerned for, co-operative credit, and I may begin with a little narrative that may be useful

When we were very young there was one among us who continually borrowed money—sometimes half a crown, sometimes five shillings, and sometimes even more—but he invariably paid back at the moment agreed on. In fact, he became known as the most reliable borrower round about. One day I discovered that he never used the money that he borrowed. He kept it safely and returned, not merely the money that he had borrowed, but the exact coins that he had borrowed. (Laughter.) I asked him about his eccentricity. He said indignantly that it was not an eccentricity, that he had studied the principles of Political Economy, and that he was building up a reputation for reliability against the day when he might need to borrow money. (Renewed laughter.)

In that little story, Sir, there is almost the whole theory of credit. We are in difficult circumstances in Bengal. There is abroad, not a reluctance, but rather a growing determination to evade all kinds of obligations in the payment of rents, rates, taxes, cesses, loans, borrowings from co-operative societies, school fees, and fees for water supplied from canals. (Laughter.) I have heard of parts in this province where the people do not pay their rents because they say that Lenin Saheb has told them that they are not to. The paradise that is aimed at is not a paradise in which all are to be happy together. All are to be happy except Government, landlords, money-lenders, creditors of every kind, and especially, I believe the Registrar of the Co-operative

Department. It is to be a paradise for those who have the smaller privileges now; they will have enjoyment without effort, loans without repayment, privileges without responsibility. In fact, this paradise is to be an entirely one-sided structure, like the balance-sheets of some of the Calcutta companies that occasionally invite our money.

Rural credit, we are told, is drying up. Those who work for co-operative societies know it. This is not an apprehension: this is a known fact. But why? Government's policy has something to do with it. I do not know whether it is treason to refer here to-day to the Money-lenders Bill, but the Bengal Provincial Bank has already put in a serious warning about the Bill as it stands, and if it comes out of the Select Committee as it goes in, I think money-lenders, banks and co-operative credit societies may as well close down. There will be nothing for them to do except perhaps for a few of them to secure membership of this House and enjoy privileges without responsibility.

Then there is our debt conciliation policy. The expectation was that our Debt Conciliation Boards would by agreement between creditor and debtor scale down debts and the debtor, finding his debts considerably reduced, would be found hurrying along all the roads of the province carrying bundles on his back to pay back the remainder of what he owed to the creditor—his eyes filled with tears of joy and his face filled with gratitude to the Government, to the Council that passed that Act, and to the Debt Conciliation Board. But we find nothing of that sort. The reports from all over the province are that debtors who have got their dues scaled down see no reason why they should not wait a little longer in the hope of getting the remainder of their dues scaled down. For this and similar reasons, the credit of the province is frozen. If we can unfreeze even a tenth of what is frozen we should have enough liquid results—I was going to say—to float several battleships; but a better comparison occurs to me, to float several new Jute Sales Societies, and anyone who has had anything to do with our one Jute Sales Society, either in its short life or in its long liquidation, will appreciate the dimensions of my comparison.

Finally, I would say it is easy and grossly unfair to attack this department for every little sin of omission or commission in any part of the province. Why should we blame the Registrar and his assistants all the time? They deserve our sympathy and our support. I think no one in this province or even in India has a harder and a more thankless task than the officials of this department. For let us remember that co-operative credit is not the activity of a supervising department. Co-operative credit is by its nature, by its essential definition, an activity of the people of the country. The theory is and the practice in other countries, that people join together, put their own resources together to provide the capital, lend to themselves, borrow from themselves, know how far they themselves can be trusted with

their own money. In this House, year after year, there are calls upon Government to supply rural credit. Government may do so; I do not know what intention the Minister has. But if Government does so, we change the very basis, the nature, of the work we are doing. These institutions then become not co-operative credit institutions; Government becomes merely a money-lender, and that is what many members of this House and many critics outside this House want Government to become. They desire Government to become really a banker and a remarkably tolerant banker that will carry out its work by the emotions rather than according to business principles. Co-operative credit institutions are regarded by some merely as places to get money out of, never as places to get money into. But it is the activity of the people that keeps co-operative credit healthy, solvent, liquid, flowing. Many have pointed out that our co-operative movement is not a movement. Can we make it a movement again? If the present debtors began paying back their dues to the societies, it will become a movement again.

(Here the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the motion moved by my friend Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal. Co-operative Department is one of the most important departments of the Government, and its main object is to supply the rural populace with credit at very low rates of interest payable in easy instalments. The co-operative movement is a total failure in Bengal. Government has failed to make any arrangements for advancing money to the people of rural areas in time of their dire necessity. With the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards rural credit has gone. Nobody gets a single rupee from the village *mahajans* and the people in rural areas are in dire need of some arrangements for loans easily available to them in their needs. It is of course an admitted fact that with the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards people are considerably relieved from the oppression of the *mahajans* and the landlords. It would have been better if Government had made arrangements for rural credit along with the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards, as it was apprehended by all beforehand that with the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards the village *mahajans* would not advance money to the villagers. We often hear from the Government that schemes are being prepared for the establishment of land-mortgage banks where the people will get loans at low rates of interest, but uptil now no scheme has yet seen the light of the day and the miseries of the people know no bounds. The circumstances are so critical that unless immediate steps are taken in

this direction people will have to part with their lands. The people will be deprived of their holdings for the fact that those who are in urgent and immediate necessity of money are executing *kobalas* in favour of the *mahajans*. The *mahajans* do not advance any money on hand-notes or even on mortgage bonds and consequently people are forced to part with their lands. When the rural credit has been destroyed by the Government, it is its bounden duty to make immediate arrangements for rural credit and if the Government does not take immediate necessary steps, it will certainly be failing in its duty.

With regard to the working of the co-operative societies, it must be said that the working is far from satisfactory. In most of the societies the loans advanced by the central banks are not taken by the members according to their needs and in most cases those who are in charge of the village societies take the lion's share. The result is that those who are in charge of the rural societies and who absorb the money advanced cannot repay the loan in time. The poorer section of the members pay regularly. For these reasons many of the rural societies have gone on liquidation. I would like to suggest that inspectors and supervisors should be given instructions to see that loans advanced by the central banks are given to the members in accordance with their needs and also in accordance with the capacity of their repayment.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I regarded Mr. Banerjee as a great authority on co-operation and to-day when he began his speech by a comparative study of the co-operative movement of Denmark and of this country I expected that he would place before us some concrete suggestions for the improvement of the movement in this country which, if accepted by Government, would make the people of this country happy and contented. But he sadly disappointed us. He soared very high and stooped so low at once that he began to vilify the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies by narrating some instances of nepotism. He could not give any concrete suggestion. He said that some relations of the Registrar happened to be officers under him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a crime?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: It is not a crime.

Well, if we look to other departments of Government where some Babus happen to be at the helm of affairs or a Hindu is Superintendent of an office, we find that not only the Babus but also their sons, grandsons and downward fourteen generations are serving in those departments, i.e., practically one particular family is monopolising the whole department with sons, sons-in-law, grandsons and other relations.

Mr. Banerjee has mentioned some instances of nepotism. Well, so far as I know, Bedar Bakht is the only one out of all the officers mentioned by my friend who happens to be a close relation of the Registrar (his brother-in-law), but who, I must tell the House, has got a very close and practical experience of fisheries. Others, whom he has mentioned, are no relations and some are very distant relations who are not counted by Muhammadans as relations in ordinary parlance and who were appointed long before the Registrar came to his present office. That is all about it.

Now, Sir, I want to say something about rural credit. Arrangements for the supply of rural credit must be made without any further delay, as there has been a serious contraction of credit in the rural areas. Now that the money-lenders are reluctant to advance any credit to the agriculturists on account of the operation of the Debt Settlement Boards, amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act and the proposed Money-lenders' Bill, it is essentially necessary that arrangements for the supply of short-term loans to the cultivators should be made by extension of village credit societies. It is somewhat difficult for the provincial banks and the central financing banks to advance more loan to the cultivators now, as their old loans have been locked up in the societies. Therefore, in the first instance arrangement should be made for making the old loans in the village societies mobile by reducing the rate of interest, granting remission of arrear interest and by extending the *kist* for repayment spread over 20 years or more.

We understand that the department has submitted a comprehensive scheme in this direction which will require Government to allow the provincial bank to float debentures for paying off the depositors' money invested in the central banks. This scheme may be accepted. Also facilities may be given by Government to the provincial bank to raise more money at cheap rate of interest and advance to the central banks for organisation of credit societies on a large scale. It is anticipated that if the provincial bank can raise a loan of about Rs. 2 crores at 3 per cent. interest, it will be able to give substantial relief to the cultivators at this time when the contraction of credit is very acute in rural areas.

Arrangement should also be made immediately for extension of co-operative land-mortgage banks. Now there are only 5 land-mortgage banks in the province but we want that Government should at once establish at least one land-mortgage bank in each subdivisional headquarters of this province.

Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:

স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি কাজি এমদাদুল হক সাহেবের প্রস্তাবের সমর্থন প্রসঙ্গে এই কথা বলিতে চাই যে, এদেশে co-operative movement যখন প্রথম প্রথম ইয়োরোপ, জার্ম্মানী, সুইডেন ও ডেনমার্ক হইতে আমদানি হয় তখন লোকেরা অনেক উচ্চ আশা হৃদয়ে পোষণ করিয়াছিল।

তাহারা আশা করিয়াছিল যে, এতদিন পরে বোধ হয় ঋণভার-প্রপীড়িত জনসাধারণের ঋণমুক্ত হইবার একটা পথ প্রস্তুত হইয়া আসিল। কিন্তু কয়েক বৎসরের পরীক্ষা ও অভিজ্ঞতার ভিতর দিয়া প্রমাণিত হইয়া গিয়াছে যে, ইহা আমাদের প্রকৃত রোগের ঔষধ নহে। আমাদের সম্মুখে যে বাজেট, কো-অপারেটিভ্ মুভমেণ্টের ব্যয়ের জন্য উপস্থিত করা হইয়াছে, তাতে আমরা দেখিতে পাইতেছি, মোট ১৫ লক্ষ ৪৯ হাজার টাকা এই বাবদে ব্যয় হইবে। এই টাকার মধ্যে কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন বাবদেই ব্যয়িত হইবে ১১ লক্ষ ৯৫ হাজার টাকা। এতদ্ব্যতীত other charges বলিয়া বাজে খরচ হইবে ১ লক্ষ ২১ হাজার, বিলাতের ফণ্ডে দিতে হইবে ৬ হাজার। সুতরাং মোট ১৫ লক্ষের মধ্যে ১৩ লক্ষই কর্ম্মচারী পোষণে ও বাজে খাতে ব্যয় হইয়া যাইবে। Grant-in-aid এর জন্য থাকিল মাত্র ২ লক্ষ ২৪ হাজার টাকা। সেণ্ট্রাল ফাইনান্সমেণ্টের নিকট হইতে যে টাকাটা পাওয়া গিয়াছে, পল্লী উন্নয়নের জন্য, এই টাকার মধ্যে মাত্র ৩৯ হাজার ৪৮০ টাকা ব্যয়িত হইবে, অবশিষ্ট ৩৭,৫২০, ইহাও যাইবে কর্ম্মচারী পোষণে। এইত হইল সাধারণ ফণ্ডের টাকা লইয়া ছিনিমিনি খেলিবার অভিনয়। বাজেট্ বিচার করিয়া যতদূর দেখা যাইতেছে, ইহাই প্রকাশ যে, রাজ কোষের ১৫ লক্ষ টাকা হইতে ১৩ লক্ষ টাকাই আমরা co-operative movement এর নামে, পল্লী উন্নয়নের নামে ও দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের ঋণমুক্তির দোহাই দিয়া ব্যয় করিতেছি—অথচ মূল কার্য্যের জন্য কিছুই নহে। আর যে টাকা Co-operative সোসাইটির দ্বারা কৃষকগণকে ঋণস্বরূপ দেওয়া হয় উহা উদ্ধারের সময় খাতকের প্রতি যে সব অনাচার অত্যাচার চালান হয় তাহা সভ্য জগতে অসম্ভব ও অলীক কল্পনা বলিয়াই মনে হইবে।

প্রথমে লোকে মনে করিয়াছিলো যে, Co-operative Society র কল্যাণে সুদের হার কমিয়া যাইবে। কিন্তু কার্য্যক্ষেত্রে দেখা গেল, সমবায় ব্যাঙ্ক হইতে কর্জ্জ করিতে হইলে শতকরা বার্ষিক ১৩৷৷৶ আনা করিয়া সুদ দিতে হইবে। পূর্ব্বে মহাজনেরা শতকরা ৭।৮।১০ টাকার বেশী সুদ নিতো না। কিন্তু, যখন তাহারা দেখিলো যে, Co-operative ব্যাঙ্কগুলি ১৩৷৷৶ আনার কম সুদে টাকা ধার দিতেছে না, তখন মহাজনেরাও সুদের হার বাড়াইয়া দিয়াছেন। আমাদের এই সমবায় বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিকট সবিনয় অনুরোধ, পল্লীগ্রামে যে সব সোসাইটি আছে সেই সব সোসাইটি যাহাতে নির্দ্দয়ভাবে কৃষক খাতকদের নিকট হইতে ঋণের টাকা উসুল না করে সে দিকে যেন তিনি তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি নিক্ষেপ করেন। এই আমার বক্তব্য।

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, I have listened with very great attention to the speeches that have been delivered in connection with this very humble subject of co-operation Sir, no less than 10 honourable friends of mine have spoken and most of them have addressed the House with regard to the question of supplying rural credit in the interior of the province. Sir, I indicated in the beginning that a scheme had already been decided upon and I would in a few minutes place the same before the House and I have every reason to hope and trust that all sorts of apprehensions that are still lingering in the minds of my honourable friends will be at once removed. Before I come to that, I need only say a few words with regards to some of the observations that have been made by my friend Mr. Banerjee from whom I least expected them. Sir, he is a member of the Select Committee which is considering the Co-operative Societies Bill referred to it by the House and I should not have expected him to refer to what the Select Committee is doing. Responsibility does not lie with the Minister alone, but I hope that the responsibility lies with all the members of the Select Committee as well.

Now, Sir, he has said about the choice of the members of the village societies and has said that the quality of membership has not been kept in view. He has also said that the training at the Dum Dum Institute has been confined so far to the higher officers of the department and not to the rank and file. Sir, I should have expected him to be much better posted so far as these facts are concerned. Sir, he should know that so far as the formation of the society is concerned, it does not lie with the Government and a description of such a thing has been given a few minutes ago by one of my early professors Mr. Wordsworth as to how these things are done. Government have got only the responsibility of making proper audits under the Act of 1912 under which it is still functioning. With regard to the internal affairs these are left more or less to the societies themselves. If, therefore, a number of persons come and combine themselves in the formation of a society under the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912 and have a proper set of rules and bye-laws, no question of the quality of these members being tested by the department does arise at all.

With regard to the Training Institute, Sir, I submit that I did address this House last year and I mentioned that the institute could not undertake the training of all the officers of the department all at once. They have to be brought in batches and the last batch is in the Training Camp at the present moment. It is intended that after the training of the officers is over, the training of supervisors and other persons connected with this movement in the interior will be taken up. We are in correspondence with the Central Banks and they have agreed to put their supervisors to a course of training in this Training Institute at Dum Dum. It is, therefore, clear as to what we mean when we talk of training in this institute not only of the officers but of those connected with the movement as a whole.

He then talks of nepotism and of a few defalcations. Sir, I do not know how often have I got to inform the House about these matters. Question after question I had to answer and I mentioned this matter very clearly to the House as to the relationship or otherwise of some of the officers with the head of the department at the present moment. The question of defalcation that arose at the Hooghly Central Bank some time ago was specifically raised by Mr Dhirendra Narayan Mukherji last year in the course of the discussion and I then pointed out to him and to the House that this was detected by the officers of the department. The officer concerned was punished not for anything irregular except this that he borrowed a sum of money from one of the officers of the Hooghly Central Bank. He then refers to something about the South Calcutta Co-operative Society. Sir, it was very unfortunate that the Secretary was involved in a case of misappropriation in 1936. The matter was enquired into and as a result, he was made to pay a sum of Rs. 4,000 in cash and an instalment was given to him to repay the balance of Rs. 1,500 which was considered as due

from him. Now, Sir, it is clear that so far as the internal management of the societies is concerned, Government have no responsibility whatsoever. It is only when these things occur that the ordinary law of the land has got to be invoked for punishing the miscreants. Now, Sir, this is all he has mentioned by way of a bit of hostile criticism of the administration of the department.

Sir, with regard to other observations that have been made on the movement as a whole in the province, I hope and trust that after what Mr. Wordsworth has said, no further comment is necessary from me with regard to the composition of co-operative societies and so far as the other portion of his present remark is concerned, I do not accept the whole of his statement as absolutely correct. (At this stage the Hon'ble Minister was reminded by Mr. Speaker about the time allotted to him for his speech.)

Sir, as you have been good enough to remind me of the time-limit within which I must finish, I think I should now come to that question of rural credit, and I have to place before the House the steps that I have decided to take; and it is this—The problem of providing short-term seasonal credit for agriculturists has been engaging the serious attention of Government. The private sources of credit are at present extremely shy and have practically dried up. People then started to look to the co-operative societies for such credit, but these societies could not meet the demand because for some years they have only been able to collect a small percentage of the outstanding loans, and therefore had not the expected money to put back into circulation. Further their inability to repay deposits on maturity did not encourage fresh deposits to supply fresh capital for circulation as short-term loans. So a deadlock was reached, and a certain degree of public anxiety has been expressed about the stability of the Co-operative Banks and about the future of agricultural seasonal finance; depositors ask when they will be repaid their deposits, and debtor-members ask what hope have they of being released from the growing burden of debt and how they will manage in the future. This anxiety need not continue; Government fully intend to support the co-operative movement in this province and will not allow it to fall into any serious danger. Government will also see that cultivators obtain such short-term seasonal loans as they really require. These then are the two problems; to remove the deadlock in which Central Banks and Societies are involved as regards past loans and old habilities, and to enable societies to start functioning anew purely for supply of seasonal short-term credit. In order to secure a steady flow of agricultural credit and to put the agriculturists on a sound footing for the future, Government feel that the burden of past debts must be lightened as far as possible and therefore that any scheme for supplying future short-term credit must be accompanied by a scheme for reducing society members' old debts to an amount within their repaying capacity. At the same time the two problems will be

treated quite independently in practice and in all existing societies separate accounts will be kept for payments in discharge of old liabilities and for new short-term loans. I want to make it quite clear that the past entanglements will be no handicap for the future in the case of any member who shows an honest intention to pay what is settled as fair for him to pay towards old liabilities, and who knows that he can repay after the harvest the small seasonal short-term loan that he may require in the future.

First then with regard to the past: in order to release the deadlock Government propose, at an early date, subject to detailed examination of certain points, to give effect to a scheme which will facilitate the repayment to depositors of their principal dues in proportion to the extent that the assets of each Bank are considered good and justify such assistance from Government. The preliminary survey to ascertain this amount has already been carried out and the result is now under examination; this scheme will also include the scaling down of debts due from members to an amount which they can fairly be expected to pay by easy instalments spread over a number of years, and when these instalments have been fully paid off the past will have been fully cleared up. A scheme on these lines has actually been framed and is now under the consideration of Government. I may also add in this connection that with a view to giving further assistance in the liquidation of old debts and also to give facilities for credit on a long-term basis, Government intend to increase the number of land-mortgage banks. The five existing ones have been experimental, and their initial progress has necessarily been slow, because strict banking principles have had to observed and have been observed; but the experience gained has been valuable, and Government now feel that they can expand this line of co-operative activity.

So much for the past debts and liabilities, and it is hoped that debtor-members, now that a definite limit will be placed to their liabilities and a clear chance afforded of pulling themselves out of debt, will respond by doing all in their power to expedite the disposal of their cases before Debt Settlement Boards by regularly and promptly paying instalments fixed for them and by giving proof of their intention to do so by paying what they can while their applications are pending before the Boards. I will here repeat the assurance which has been given before that payments made, while an application is pending before a Debt Settlement Board, will be adjusted against the finally awarded amount.

Now for the future; I hope not only that the scheme outlined above will bring fresh hope to creditors and debtors alike, but also that the assurances that I have given of full Government support to the co-operative movement will dispel any tendency to lack of confidence in the banks. You may rest assured, Sir, that deposits may be made in full confidence, and that Government will take such executive action

as may be within their power to assist the banks in maintaining efficient management. If, however, the action foreshadowed above and these assurances do not attract sufficient fresh deposits to supply the immediate need for future short-term credit, Government will help to such an extent as may be necessary and as may be justified by the economic assets and circumstances of the societies and their members. New societies will be formed for this purpose as and where necessary consistent with due regard for their organisation on a proper basis; new societies will be organised as rapidly as possible, but mistakes of the past must not be repeated. I must here make it clear, Sir, that in taking steps to stimulate the provision of funds for short-term agricultural credit, Government have in mind the requirements of cultivators for genuine seasonal agricultural needs, and do not contemplate nor consider themselves in any way responsible for the supply of credit for other extraneous objects, such as expenditure on social ceremonies, etc. The loans will be limited to the minimum amount actually necessary and to an amount which the borrower can repay in normal years without difficulty. Also it must be again emphasized that the ultimate basis of any system for the supply of credit is credit-worthiness, that is to say, conduct calculated to inspire a feeling of confidence that loans will be repaid in due time. The surest way to reapen the sources of credit is to dispel any apprehension that borrowers may evade their obligations, and the best and quickest means of dispelling any such impression is to give some practical proof of an intention to honour one's obligations and to meet one's liabilities honestly to the fullest extent within one's power. In order to make future deposits more safe, Government intend to legislate so that future loans by co-operative societies shall be recoverable as a public demand, the power to be used only in cases of wilful default, and in the meantime Government will afford the Provincial and Central Co-operative Banks all possible assistance through their officers towards ensuring a fair distribution of new short-term loans at a moderate rate of interest and to secure their punctual repovery.

(At this stage, the Hon'ble Minister reached his time-limit.)

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions that have been moved.

The motion of Mr. Satya Priya Banerji that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Kazi Emdadul Haque that the demand of Rs. 15,33,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick that a sum of Rs 15,33,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" was put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Industries.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bhasdur, of Dacca: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs 16,18,000 under the head "43—Industries" be voted for expenditure. In commending this industrial budget of the province for the approval of the honourable members I would emphasise that the responsibility that rests on us in the matter of the industrial development of the province is indeed grave and considerable. It does not lie only in formulating a policy and in executing it, but also in placing before the wider public a realistic picture of the problems that face us and the possible solutions thereof that can be attempted by the Government, having regard to available resources. It is from this standpoint that I beg your indulgence to address a few words to you in the hope that you may appreciate our difficulties and assess our achievements accordingly.

If the provisions in the budget have not been as much as we would have them it is not because that I am not conscious of the responsibility of my department in the matter of assisting the industrial progress of the province along desirable and possible lines, but because of the various limitations and difficulties over which we have little or no control. I have listened with great attention, considerable interest and due respect to the criticisms that have been levelled against the budget provisions, but it appears that most of these comments partake more of the nature of criticism for the sake of criticism than a correct assessment, against the prospective unavoidable limitations and difficulties, of what it has been possible for us to achieve. Before I proceed to deal with the criticisms I may just assure the honourable members that Government have been quite unsparing in their efforts to utilise the available funds in the best possible manner with a view to promoting the industrial development of the province. And I hope to impress on the House with reference to the detailed schemes that have so far been put into operation or will shortly be implemented, that the policy and programme that we are following should enable us to achieve the objects in view.

I do not doubt for a moment that there is a genuine earnestness underlying all popular demands for a more rapid industrial progress of the province. Admittedly it is a happy augury for the country, for unless the public are inspired by an industrial impulse and their industrial consciousness are awakened, the unaided efforts of the Government cannot possibly make any headway. But I am sorry to have noticed that in their enthusiasm for criticism our critics lose sight of this important factor as also the realities of the situation. A Provincial Government's scope of initiative in the matter of industrial development is limited by many factors and industrial progress cannot be achieved merely by inspiration. It requires not only careful planning but also cautious adoption of measures in which certain delays are inevitable. In our anxiety for industrial advancement we must not ignore the limitations that beset us but should have patience for the fruition of our schemes. Although our industrial budget has since the 1st April, 1937, increased by more than six lakhs, there remain still a number of schemes which could not be taken up for want of adequate funds. If our industrial schemes are found to be incomplete in certain details and directions, it is mainly because of this limitation of funds.

Besides there is another factor which unavoidably causes delay in the formulation and execution of schemes. There are recognised methods and departmental procedures for examination and consideration through which every proposal is to pass, before it can be carried to the stage of operation. So certain delays are inevitable and however much we may like to expedite things, we cannot do so except at the risk of haphazard and possibly wasteful employment of resources and materials. We do not certainly want the employment of our resources to uncertain ends, and that is why we have chosen to follow a policy of careful planning and gradual expansion of our activities even at the risk of a little delay. You do not certainly desire that in our zeal for progress and reform, we should put too many irons in the fire and dissipate our resources and energies on schemes of doubtful advantage and benefit.

I should invite your attention to another limiting factor in our programme of work which I emphasised in my speech in the other House only the other day. This relates to the lack of provincial control over tariff, fiscal policy, exchange and railway freight of the country. If I refer to this fact again to you, I do so only to impress upon you that on account of this lack of control over such important factors of national economy, the Provincial Government cannot have its own way in the matter of industrial development or cannot always develop industries according to its own requirements and plan.

With regard to the policy that we are following and mean to follow in future, I may assure the House that our objective is the harmonious

development of all types of industries so that an all-round improvement of the economic conditions of the masses can be accomplished. I need hardly point out to you that the economic problems of the people are varied and many-sided, and unless we can attack them on all fronts we are not likely to make any impression on the accumulated deficiencies and handicaps that are lying like a dead weight on the country side. While industries will have to be developed, agriculture and trade also will have to be improved on correlated lines, for they are complementary in many respects. But in the matter of industrial development also we should remember that a Provincial Government's scope of initiative is indeed limited

We cannot certainly take a direct initiative to develop and promote all and sundry industries. By providing information, technical training and knowledge and by financial assistance in some form or other we may assist the industrial development of the province in many ways. But as the amelioration of the economic conditions of the masses is of the most vital concern to us, our foremost endeavour has been to initiate those measures which will materially assist the rejuvenation of the decadent small and cottage industries of Bengal and the promotion of new industries, so that the standard of living in the country-side may be gradually improved.

This is, in brief, Sir, the policy we are pursuing. I would now make a reference to the achievements of my department so far and the possibilities of further expansion in future. There is a general charge against my department that there are hardly any tangible proofs of industrial progress that the activities of the Government, directly or indirectly, have been able to assist. I am afraid the charge is largely based on insufficient and uninformed data. Although it should not be expected that the efforts of a Provincial Government department, specially within the constitutional limitations such as obtain in India, will lead the country far along the road to industrialisation, it must be said that in realising the objects which were in view of the Government since the inception of the department, it has been eminently successful and that since the inauguration of provincial autonomy the policy, as outlined above, has received an accelerated impetus The example of the potteries at Belghuria where a labour force of nearly 600 composed of almost of all communities is employed is a typical illustration of how Government initiative and assistance can produce very commendable results. During the short period of two years the Government have also put into operation a number of useful schemes which are expected to go a long way in improving the productive technique of the cottage industries and the arrangements for marketing of their products and expanding the technical and vocational training in various lines. During the year 1938-39, the establishment of the Silk Conditioning House at Howrah has been an important development in the sphere of the silk industry of the province, for it will serve to place

the industry on a scientific basis. The Conditioning House will arrange for the testing of raw silk and its standardisation which is an essential prerequisite for the development of the market.

Three more important schemes that were put into operation during the year are the appointment of an Industrial Survey Committee, the establishment of the Industrial Intelligence Section and the establishment of the Industrial and Commercial Museum with moving exhibitions. The Survey Committee has been entrusted with the task of making a through investigation into the existing position of the various types of industries, the possible remedies that should be adopted for the solution of their problems and the possibilities of their further expansion in future. The Committee has also been asked to suggest what new industries could be introduced with a view to utilise the enormous economic resources lying untapped in this province and the huge available man-power lying practically idle. The Government are expecting that when the findings of this Committee will be made, the Government will be in possession of enough materials and data on the basis of which they would be able to formulate a comprehensive policy of industrial development for the province and launch it in right earnest.

The establishment of the Industrial Intelligence Section again was an important step in the matter of compiling and disseminating industrial data of the province. For want of an adequate and competent staff for the purpose the department was feeling very much handicapped, but the creation of the section enhanced the utility of the department. Quite recently, this Section completed the survey of brass and bell-metal industry in Bengal and produced a report which is not only very comprehensive but contains a huge mass of valuable data that will throw a flood of light on the problems facing this industry as well as other industries of rural Bengal. Similar reports on other important industries are in the process of preparation. As any industrial planning presupposes the availability of detailed and dependable data, the usefulness of the section is beyond question and when the Industrial Survey Committee will have made its recommendations and outlined the possibilities of further industrial expansion, it will have to carry out the important task of collecting industrial facts and materials more intensively and extensively.

In connexion with the promotion of rural industries, the work of the Industrial Intelligence Section will also be very helpful, for, as I have already pointed out to you, the most urgent problem of the rural masses is how to provide them with gainful subsidiary occupations with the help of which they may be enabled to augment their scanty incomes from their land. Most of the agriculturists as is well known to you remain unemployed or under-employed for a number of months in the year. If arrangements could be made for organizing small industries in the cottages, the idle months of the agriculturists would be

profitably employed and the whole rural population would be materially benefited. We know what industries generally exist in the rural areas and when the investigations carried out by this section from time to time will reveal their problems and difficulties, the Government will devise suitable measures to tackle them and also it is expected that these surveys will indicate new lines of industries that the agriculturists may suitably adopt either as their principal or off-season occupations. I may assure the House that the Government will be unsparing in their efforts to assist the agriculturists in this respect in every possible way.

In the matter of providing better facilities of publicity and marketing for our industrial products, the establishment of the Industrial Museum and Moving Exhibitions have also been a measure of far-reaching importance and it is being expected that this Museum by proving a rallying ground for all types of industrial products will impart a definite impetus to the industrial development of the province in new and hitherto untried lines. The Moving Exhibition also as an adjunct to the Museum will be organised at suitable centres of the province occasionally and the party will move from place to place in order to enlighten the people on the industrial products of the province and also the techniques of production in many lines. The Moving Exhibition has been inaugurated for the first time at Uluberia in the midst of great popular enthusiasm. Judging from the number of visitors to the Exhibition, numbering more than 1,000 a day, it may be confidently said that there was a real need for it and its increasing popularity means its increasing utility. All this will serve to create an industrial mindedness and disseminate knowledge which are so very necessary for rousing the people out of the torpor of their indolence and poverty.

Further, to provide better facilities of technical training the industrial grant-in-aid fund has been appreciably augmented on account of which it was possible for the department to finance a large number of industrial schools in the rural areas. The reorganisation of peripatetic weaving schools by enlarging the curriculum of instruction and by providing for training in modern technique of dyeing and bleaching of yarns and fabrics has also been an important development. Dyeing, as you must be aware of, is a highly technical subject and a very important part of textile technology. With a view to providing the students with an up-to-date knowledge of modern dyeing, arrangements have been made for the expansion of the Dye House which is being equipped with the latest type of plant and machinery at Serampore. A power weaving cotton section also is about to be opened for the training of mill operatives and as a large number are annually absorbed in the existing Textile Mills of the province, it is expected that training imparted through this section will enable many young men to find employment in the existing concerns.

The Government Weaving Institute is considered to be the premier institution of its kind in India and its recent expansion will further enhance its prestige and usefulness. The name of the Institute has now been changed into Bengal Textile Institute so that it may more appropriately convey the impression of its all-Bengal character.

There are again certain important schemes waiting to be implemented which could not be put into operation on account of certain unavoidable factors. I think I should refer to them, as several honourable members of the House have complained that in spite of the provision of funds in last year's budget, these schemes were not carried into effect. The schemes in question are (*a*) the reorganisation of the Silk Weaving Institute at Berhampore and (*b*) the establishment of a Power Weaving Section at the Bengal Textile Institute, Serampore. In regard to the reorganisation of the Silk Weaving Institute, I may inform the House that the Government did their best to expedite it, but as the details of the design and estimates of the highly technical machines were available rather late, they could not be ordered for early. They are, however, now on their way from abroad. Secondly, the question of accommodation offered difficulties with the closing down of the Berhampore Detention Camps. We are, however, now at an advanced stage of preparation and it is expected that the reorganisation scheme will shortly be carried into effect in its entirety.

In respect of the proposed Power Jute Weaving Section at Serampore, the delay has been principally due to the protracted negotiations with the Indian Jute Mills Association. It was considered necessary to consult this body whose members are the prospective employers, before the plant and machinery were actually ordered for and the course of study and other details finally settled. All this took much more time than would have been necessary with the result that the money could not be utilised during the current financial year.

This is, in brief, a review of the activities of my department during the short period I have been in office, and I hope that what we have so far achieved and what possibilities we have in view to realise need not be considered quite unimpressive. To organise men and materials for carrying out an industrial programme is a grave problem and unless utmost care is taken, any loophole or gap that may remain may jeopardise our prospects of success. Having borne in mind this consideration, we should regulate our policy and expect results. I would cordially invite the honourable members to visit the various institutions that have been organised under the auspices of the Department of Industries and judge for themselves what is being done in them and what services they are rendering to the young generations and wider public of the province. I would repeat this invitation,

for I feel somehow that if honourable members see things for themselves they will discover that there is hardly any substance in the gravemen of their charge.

Sir, one word more and I have done. In moving the grant for the acceptance of the House, I have endeavoured to present you with an idea of what the Industries Department has so far achieved and in what new lines its activities will gradually expand. I hope I have been able to impress on you that we have not lacked either in initiative or in results within the limitations and difficulties of the situation.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 under the head "43—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government's not making any plan to open and encourage industries with a view to solve unemployment and make Bengal self-sufficient.

Our industrial backwardness is awful and in the short time at my disposal, it will not be possible for me to touch all the lines of industry but only a brief survey of the most important industries which we require for producing the ordinary articles of consumption will give this House an idea how bankrupt we are with regard to industry.

First, if we consider the case of salt, the most important item of our consumption, you will find that a very negligible quantity is produced in our province although our province is open to sea for several thousands of miles. Most of our requirements are supplied from Aden, Bombay, Madras and even from Europe, and up to this time Government did nothing save and except allotting Rs. 12,000 this year to have an experiment in the Sunderban area, and God only knows how many years they will take to select their experts and select their site, and for doing these the present Ministry may spend the whole three years of their time in order to have a suitable salt factory proposed in the budget of this year.

Next, coming to sugar, we find from the data supplied in the report of the Director of Industries published very recently that we have 130,000 tons of sugar consumption in Bengal of which we produce only 23,000 tons, that is, we do not produce in Bengal even one-fifth of the sugar required for our consumption.

Then coming to cloth industry, we find from the above report that there are only 22 cloth mills and of late only 3 new mills have been registered but they have not yet begun manufacture. This industry is also dependent on the import of foreign cotton. Our country does not produce a sufficient quantity of cotton to supply cotton to our mills.

Then, Sir, coming to jute industry we find that 95 jute mills are standing on either side of the Ganges and most of the mills are managed either by Europeans or Bhatias or Marwaris. About 3 lakhs of workers work in these jute mills but all of them are imported from other provinces and Bengalis are not given any preference to work there. Of late, Government showed some solicitude for the jute industry: that was also for special reasons. Government promulgated an ordinance for the improvement of the jute industry. I submit that this was only to satisfy our European masters and for nothing else. The Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq who has pocketed hundreds of thousands of Jawahar Lals could not pocket these 25 European gentlemen who sit here and for whose satisfaction he had to promulgate this ordinance. In order to satisfy the handful of foreigners he sacrificed the interests of 4½ crores of agriculturists——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you are not to discuss jute ordinance but jute industry.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Now, let us pass on to tea. Here we find that practically one-third of Bengal is forbidden area for Bengalis This profitable industry is monopolised mostly by Europeans, and the few Bengali gentlemen who have taken to this industry are practically subordinate to European interests and these Bengalis have very little share in the profit. My friend, Mr. Abul Hashim, referred to Nawab Musharruff Hossain as one of the tea magnates of North Bengal but his gardens were first managed and organised by European managers I know him; he comes from our part of the country

In this industry also lakhs of coolies are working, but Bengalis do not get any preference These coolies are recruited from the United Provinces, Bihar and even from the Central Provinces.

Then coming to the leather industry, it is a matter of great regret that this indigenous industry is passing into the hands of foreign manufacturers——

(Here the member reached the time-limit, but was allowed one minute more to finish his speech.)

If we look again to the other important industries like coal and iron, there also we find European management and European influence and our interests are subordinated. Practically Bengal has become the grazing ground for all the adventurers. When European money is surplus they must come here to utilise that money. When Bombay got a surplus money by exploiting Bengal at the time of the Swadeshi movement they came here to exploit Bengal. In this way the Europeans, the Marwaris, the Bhatias, the Boras and the other people have all come to Bengal to exploit at the cost of the people of the

country. It is said that capital in Bengal is very shy, but it is not the whole story. There are other grounds why we do not get capital in Bengal. At the time of the battle of Plassey when the zemindars of Bengal and Nawab Mirzafar conspired together to dethrone Nawab Serajudoulla this exploitation began. After the transferance of power from the Nawab to the East India Company the Marwaris were rewarded with a monopoly of import and export.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, it will require a good deal of industry to find out the relevancy of what you say.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I shall make it relevant.

The Marwaris were rewarded with the monopoly power of import and export and the Bengal zemindars were rewarded with the permanent settlement and the gentlemen who remained after the extinction of the East Indian Company got the monopoly of banking, and through banking they organised jute and other industries. For these reasons capital in Bengal is shy. The zemindars instead of utilising their money for developing the country passed their lives in luxury and in objectionable ways; with honourable exceptions most of the zemindars live in a way which is questionable. By criminally misappropriating the vast amount of money, instead of developing the industries, they spent the money in this way or that way. The Marwaris by exploiting Bengal are helping their own people and making their own nation rich and at the same time the European gentlemen who got the monopoly of banking and other things are cutting the throats of Bengalis instead of developing their industries.

Now we have got an agreement between the magnets of the jute industry, comprising Birlas, Adamjees and Europeans. This agreement came into force on the very day when the jute ordinance was withdrawn or became ineffective. In this agreement we find the re-enactment of an unholy alliance like the one just before the battle of Plassey, not for the transference of political power but, this time, for the exploitation of Bengal economically. Mr. Macdonald's (Chairman, Jute Mills Association) statement very recently published in the daily papers will show that this ordinance was issued for the benefit of the jute industry, for shortening the hours of work, for producing a limited amount of gunny cloth and other things, so that they may get a better price for their produce.

(Here the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the general policy of the Industries Department.

My motion for the cut is for the purpose of criticizing the general policy or, should I say, for the entire lack of policy of the Industries Department. It is clear that despite two years of National Government as claimed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, the Government has done practically nothing. I thank the Chief Minister for his candid confession yesterday that this Government is only a continuation of the old Government irresponsible and incompetent. The same old Director of Industries whose methods for elevating himself and his bosses are notorious still reigns the department with his utter incompetence and worthlessness. He has always been scheming but the only people who benefit by his scheming is he himself and perhaps those who have the good fortune or misfortune of bossing him. I may assure you on behalf of the Chief Minister that he has no grievance against this Hindu officer.

Sir, in Bengal the need for an active and progressive industrial policy is more urgent than anywhere else in India. The poverty and unemployment in the land both among the masses and the middle classes makes it imperative, if we are to avert a social evolution that we do act and act quickly and not merely talk and confer. What is the record of Industries Department up to date? Nothing but some tinkering measures and bogus schemes which are of no use but for the advertisement of the Director and his bosses.

It is a ludicrous monstrosity. The resources in Bengal for industrial enterprise on large scale as also on a small scale industry, including the development of the cottage industries, are indeed unlimited

In the past few years we have seen the growth and development of one of India's biggest industries—sugar. It is a misfortune just as we allowed the cotton industries through our default to migrate to Bombay and seek a hospitable home there, we have also in our own generation let slip an opportunity through the default of our Government through their lack of support and encouragement to capture a large share of the great sugar industry which should have found a natural home in Bengal as in Bihar and United Provinces. Even the small Government of Orissa with its meagre resources has shown commendable enterprise in offering subsidies for starting sugar mills in the province.

It is said that the jute industry is suffering from over-production and therefore restriction of output and hours of working has been called for and justified. Will it be denied by any sensible person that the Europeanised jute mills have been pampered too long and that the time has come when the Government should definitely encourage the establishment of jute mills in Bengal by Bengalees which can work much cheaper and compete easily with the present European managed mills?

Every year there is a large drain of wealth from this province in textile, salt and sugar. Our cotton mills to-day cannot meet even one-tenth of the province's requirements. We have no woollen mills yet (which can provide us with blankets and warm clothing we require during winter). Nor is any attention being given to silk and rayon industries. This Government has not paid any attention to the possibilities of the utilisation of the bye-products of coal which is our chief mineral.

This Government seems not to have felt the industrial changes that are rapidly taking place in all leading Congress provinces and even in the Punjab. What does the Government propose to do to stop the drain of wealth from the province? What is it going to do for providing employment to hundreds and thousands of our young men, Hindus and Muslims, with good education and sound technical knowledge and efficiency but who to-day are facing starvation and ruin because of foreign domination and exploitation? This Government by its policy of inaction is a party to the continuance of that policy which at first obstructed and hampered indigenous enterprises and later killed it by ruthless competition, and now by an elaborate system of monopolies and privileges, direct and indirect, not for the children of the soil but to the shame of this Government these privileges and monopolies are being given to those who exploit us. Does the Government think that it can solve the problem of unemployment even among Muslims by giving a few Government posts to their friends and relatives? It cannot befool the people into believing that it is doing what it can in the interest of the community. It becomes difficult for the Assembly or for the people outside to expect anything from the Industries Department with a dishonest and incompetent Director of Industries and equally if not more worthless Minister at the head.

I am sorry to refer to persons but as the Ministry is not based on any principle or programme but a mere collection of persons and personalities out for seeking their own selfish ends, this reference, however unfortunate, is unavoidable.

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই Coalition Government এবং কোম্পানির বর্ত্তমান Managing Director দের অনুধাবন কোরে দেখতে বোলছি যে, আমাদের শিল্প বাণিজ্যের কেমন লাভ দাঁড়াচ্ছে? বাংলার যে কয়টী শিল্প আজও টিকে রয়েছে এবং কুটির শিল্প হিসাবে যার ভিতর দিয়ে অনেক কিছু করা যেতে পারে আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট, বাস্তবিক সে সম্বন্ধে কি কোরছেন তা বর্ত্তমান বছরের কুটিরশিল্প বিষয়ানুদানের জন্য অতিরিক্ত দাবীর বরাদ্দ দেখলেই বোঝা যেতে পারে। আমাদের এই বাংলাদেশে প্রায় পাঁচ কোটি লোকের বাস; তাদের মধ্য থেকে অনেক লোককে কুটির শিল্পে নিয়োজিত কোরে তাদের জীবন যাত্রা নির্ব্বাহ করবার সুযোগ সুবিধা এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোরে দেওয়া উচিত। বর্ত্তমান বছরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট মাত্র পাঁচ হাজার টাকা অতিরিক্ত বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন। অবশ্য আমাদের বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটী বিশেষত্ব এই যে, তাঁরা

ধনীলোকদিগকে বেশী ধন দান কো'রে থাকেন এবং তাহাতে গৌরব অনুভব করেন। এই বিশেষত্ব তাঁদের মধ্যে আছে বোলে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি সরোজনলিনী মেমোরিয়াল এসোসিয়েশনে ত্রিশ হাজার এবং ঐ রকমের বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানে অনেক টাকা দিয়েছেন। সে টাকা যে দিয়েছেন খুব ভালোই কোরেছেন, তাতে আমাদের কোন আপত্তি নাই, কিন্তু গ্রামের কুঠির শিল্পের প্রসারের জন্য মাত্র কয়েক হাজার টাকা রাখা হয়েছে কেন? এই অল্প টাকার ব্যবস্থা থেকেই বোঝা যাচ্ছে যে, কুঠির শিল্পের প্রসার এই গভর্ণমেন্টের কৃপায় কতটা অগ্রসর হবে। আপনারা জানেন যে, লাট দফতরের অর্থ বিভাগ থেকে (Director of Industries শিল্প বিভাগের ডিরেক্টারের অফিস পর্য্যন্ত একটা বড় ফ্লাই সাটল অর্থাৎ ফাইলের মাকুযন্ত্র আছে, এদিক থেকে টানলে ওদিকে যাবে এবং ওদিক থেকে টানলে এদিকে আসবে। সুতরাং এই টানাটানি ও ঘুরাফিরার ব্যাপারে গ্রামের শিল্প স্কুলগুলি বিশেষ সাহায্য (grant-in-aid) পাবে বলে আমি মনে করি না।

আমি গতবার বক্তৃতা দিয়ে বোলেছিলাম যে, মালদহ জেলায় অন্যূন কয়েক লক্ষ টাকার লাহা তৈরী হয় কিন্তু এই লাহা হইতে গালা তৈয়ার করিয়া উপার্জ্জনের বেশীর ভাগই পাচ্ছে বিহারী লোকেরা, যে বিহারী লোকেরা আমাদের বাঙালীদের অত্যন্ত ঘৃণা করে। আপনারা বোধ হয় অনেকেই জানেন আজ কাল বিহার গভর্ণমেন্ট কি রকম খরচ কমার নাম (retrenchment) কো'রে বাঙালী কর্ম্মচারীদের বেহার হোতে তাড়িয়ে দিতেছেন। সেই বেহারীদের আমরা বছর বছর কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা দান কোরে থাকি আমাদের বাংলাদেশে (প্রায় বার আনাই মালদহে) উৎপন্ন লাহা হো'তে গালা করবার জন্য। দুতিন হাজার টাকা মাত্র যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট এদিকে খরচ করেন এবং মালদহ শিল্প স্কুলে ছোট কারখানা খুলিয়া লাহা হইতে গালা তৈয়ারির ব্যবসা লোককে বুঝাইয়া দেন, তাহলে হাজার হাজার লোক এই লাভজনক ব্যবসায় অর্থ উপার্জ্জন কোরে বাংলাদেশেই সে টাকাটা রাখতে পারে এবং দেশের বেকার সমস্যাও কতকটা দূর হয়। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় গভর্ণমেন্ট এদিকে একেবারেই মন দেন না। আমাদের মাননীয় শিল্প মন্ত্রী ঢাকার নবাব সাহেব যখন গতবার মালদহ গিয়েছিলেন, আমি তখন তাঁর নিকট এই প্রস্তাব কোরেছিলাম এবং এ বিষয়গুলি বিশদরূপে ব্যাখ্যা কোরেছিলাম, কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত সেদিকে তাঁর দৃষ্টিপাত হয় নাই, আশা করি অদূর ভবিষ্যতে তা হবে। আমার আর একটা কথা হচ্ছে এই যে, আপনারা অবশ্য সকলেই জানেন যে মালদহ জেলা কয়েক শত বছর ধরিয়া রেশমের জন্য বিখ্যাত ছিলো। এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার রেশম ও রেশমী বস্ত্র এদেশ থেকে বিদেশে রপ্তানি হতো। আর আজকে সেই জায়গায় লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার নকল রেশম বিদেশ থেকে এই দেশে আমদানি হয়ে থাকে। এসব সত্ত্বেও আমাদের মালদহ থেকে বহু লক্ষ টাকার রেশমী সূতা ভারতের বিভিন্ন স্থানে এবং অন্যান্য দেশে বর্ত্তমানেও যায়, সেই রেশমই যখন আবার চক্‌চকে রঙের শাড়ির আকারে আমাদের নিকট ফিরে আসে তখন আমরা ৪।৫ গুণ দামে সেগুলি খরিদ কোরে থাকি। সেই জন্য আমার মনে হয় যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট দয়া কোরে এই মুমূর্ষ কুঠির শিল্পটাকে পুনরুজ্জীবিত কোরতে চান এবং একটু বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দিয়ে, গভর্ণমেন্ট রিপোর্টে যে সমস্ত বিবরণ এ সম্বন্ধে আছে তার প্রতি একটু মনোযোগ দিয়ে এই শিল্পটার উন্নতির জন্য একটু চেষ্টা করেন তাহলে একটা কাজের মতন কাজ হবে। আমি আমার প্রণীত লাহা ও রেশম শিল্পের পুস্তকে রেশমী বস্ত্র বয়ণ ও বিক্রয় প্রবন্ধ হোতে একটী পাতা এখানে পড়ে শুনাচ্ছি—১৮৮১ খৃষ্টাব্দে প্রকাশিত Memorandum on Dyes of Indian Growth and Production নামক পুস্তকে Mr. Leotard লিখেছেন —রং করা পদ্ধতির অনেক গূঢ় বিবরণ ভারতীয়দের জানা আছে, এবং মনে হয় যে ইউরোপে ব্যবহৃত অনেক পদ্ধতি এখানকার আদর্শে গড়া। ভারতীয়দের রঞ্জন বিদ্যার শ্রেষ্ঠত্ব কিছুদিন পূর্ব্বে বেশ বোঝা গিয়াছিল যখন ম্যাঞ্চেষ্টার হইতে কাপড় এদেশে রং হইবার জন্য আসিত এবং নীলবস্ত্র বলিয়া বিলাতের বাজারে পুনঃ প্রবেশ করিত। এই রং করার কাজ মালদহে প্রচুর পরিমানে হতো। মালদহের বর্ত্তমান ইংরেজ বাজারের পূর্ব্ব নাম ছিলো "রংরেজ বাজার" অর্থাৎ রংকারীদের বাজার। সেখানে রেশমী সূতা ও কাপড় বিচিত্র রঙে রঞ্জিত হয়ে দেশ বিদেশে বিশেষ কোরে বাগদাদ, মিশর প্রভৃতি দেশে চালান যেতো। মিঃ ওয়ার্ডল্ নামক আর এক ব্যক্তি ১৮৭৫ সালে ভারত সচিবকে যে

পত্র লিখিয়াছিলেন এবং যে পত্র মেমোরাণ্ডাম লিখিবার অন্যতম কারণ তাহাতে লিখিত আছে "পৃথিবীর মধ্যে ভারতবর্ষেই সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা অধিক পরিমাণে রংএর উপাদান জন্মে। আর ভারতবর্ষ আমাদের রাজত্ব বলিয়া অন্যান্য দেশ অপেক্ষা আমাদের রং বিষয়ে একটা স্বাভাবিক প্রাধান্য আছে যাহার জন্য লীজনে রংএর সমস্ত প্রতিযোগীতা নষ্ট করা কর্ত্তব্য"। এই রকম শিল্পের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিশেষ চেষ্টা করা উচিৎ কি না তাহা সকলেরই ভাবিয়া দেখা উচিৎ।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 for failure to lay down a comprehensive scheme for the industrialisation of the province and for rendering help to the cottage industries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur has explained and perhaps expected us to believe that the statement which he has placed will convince us at least to some extent that his departmental achievements are very splendid indeed. But I would like to draw his attention and further I would like to request him to stretch a bit of imagination if he has got any, to look into the real state of things. He has mentioned that he had no control over the situation; secondly he wants us to explain the realities of the situation; thirdly he says that we should have patience. On the contrary, I would like to request the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur to read the realities of the country to-day. If he could read the realities of the country to-day I think he would have been more prompt and more active in discharging the duties of his department. The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur asked us to keep our patience. Is not two years' time enough for a province to maintain its patience and does he want us to go on further? I want to know what is the definite time he wants us to wait. Fourthly, Sir, he says that the provincial Government is not the only competent body that can really render some service for the industrial development of the country. Here of course I do not know who has given the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur that valuable piece of instruction, maybe it has come from his own brain, maybe it has been given by his Secretary or somebody else. But from the constitutional point of view, all students of public finance know it very well that the provincial Government has got its limitations. So far as the question of tariff and so far as the question of protection are concerned—I hope the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur has clearly grasped my word "tariff"—no doubt they require the support of the Central Government. But may I ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge that there are so many factors, so many openings and so many avenues where the Central Government have got nothing to do so far as the industrial development of the province of Bengal is concerned? How far is his achievement in that direction, how far has he stretched his energies, how far has he read these problems at all—that is the

issue before the House. If he could justify that situation, I would have congratulated him. But in fact he has not looked into the matter in any way and that is why that the whole House in a body, both from this side and from that side, will condemn and criticise, not, as he says, for the sake of criticism but for the sake of the amelioration of the people that his department has failed to execute what it was expected to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the question of unemployment looms large before the country, is it not fair, is it not honest on the part of the present Cabinet to exert its best energy to see that the industrial development of Bengal would at least absorb as many Bengalis as could be suitably employed and could earn their livelihood honestly and honourably. Casual organisations of exhibitions, displays and demonstrations in mufassil towns and a few leaflets here and there—is that a sufficient indication of the activities of the provincial Government? Is that a sufficient justification to say that we have done our best so far as it was in our control? If that be the criterion of the department, so far as the Nawab Bahadur is concerned, he may go home with this consolation that he has done his best. But all the progressive nations of the world, and all the progressive countries are moving in a different way. I do not want to cast any personal reflection on the Hon'ble Minister or any officer of the department. After all, they are nothing but individuals. What is wanted is a wider outlook, a definite and forward policy without which Nawab Habibullah Bahadur or Mr. so and so can do nothing. What I want from the department is a definite scheme—a scheme which can be executed but not one which you can very well display in a exhibition and upon which you can deliver lectures; that would not improve the condition of the province.

(At this stage, the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure to lay down a scheme for all-round and systematic development of industries.

Sir, in this connection I would draw your attention to the usual top heaviness of the department. It would seem that all schemes of industrial renaissance are born and buried within the four walls of the Ministry. From the meagre amount allotted to this department a huge amount is spent as salaries, maintenance, travelling expenses to maintain this white elephant. This department never suggested nor is expected to make and carry out constructive schemes for the protection of decadent industries and inauguration or development of new

ones. Besides the old institutions, the Bengal Tanning, Serampore Weaving Institute, in all these years we have not been able to afford opportunities to workless young men to learn the technique of important and ever-growing industries. Even the amounts budgeted in 1938-39 for reorganisation and development of these existing institutions had not been utilised. In the last year's budget, provisions have been made for scientific advisory councils, dyeing institute, designing and pattern-making, research and training institute for paints, varnish, enamels, etc., but absolutely nothing came out. Printing is an important industry in our province but there is absolutely no opportunity here to learn the essentials of this industry or to study the simpler printing machines, though the province is still leading in this industry. Lack of similar facilities to acquire knowledge of the principles of preservation and drying, lead to enormous wastage of fruits and other perishable products which otherwise could have been utilised.

It seems further that Providence has sent us malaria to help Cinchona Trust in Java. Why must we still import this and not stop this frightful drain every year?

If we cannot take major steps to prevent the disease we can at least manufacture the medicines in the country and prevent the drain of the wealth—whatever left in this poor province. In the Punjab, Bombay and other provinces various institutions have been started to give practical training in printing, hosiery and other branches of industry. But nothing has been done here where this province is still leading and all opportunities abound and where numberless young men are distracted owing to lack of employment.

Bengal has lost the then growing match industry simply for lack of necessary support from the Government which an infant industry needs.

We are now going to lose the hosiery industry, if adequate measures are not taken immediately. I wonder if the Hon'ble Minister is at all aware of the impending crash in this line. The present critical situation of this industry requires certain immediate changes and laws to prevent imminent collapse. Mutual competition of the unhealthiest type is responsible for this. There has been no attempt so far to control this, and neither production nor sale has any official check which seems so much necessary. The results have been over-production, under-selling in certain qualities, and a lack of mutual co-operation between the mills and the workers. The selling prices of most of the hosiery products to-day are so low as to leave absolutely no margin for the proprietors and are sustained through a systematic lowering of wages and replacing Bengali workers by still cheaper workers from other provinces. It is certain that if things are allowed

to drift for some time more the whole industry, at least the major part of it, will be ruined, and the capital invested by the Bengalis will be lost.

One special feature of this industry is that the employees are mainly educated persons of Bengali families, both Hindus and Muslims, and the ruin of it will practically affect so many Bengali families and the skilled workers will be thrown out of employment. To prevent this catastrophe I suggest that a "Licensing Board" be established which will examine and investigate all the production figures, and control production and sale in accordance with its findings, after comparison of production and consumption figures of pre-protection and post-protection days. Let it be legally obligatory on all the owners of mills to come into an Association and be in constant touch with this Licensing Board. Certain mills may be called on to produce certain particular qualities only, and thus competition will be directed in healthier lines.

In Japan and even in Germany and many other foreign countries with long experience in industrial enterprises the industries are subsidised, controlled and keenly watched after by the governments concerned—so that uneconomic production, over-production, senseless price-cuts, etc., cannot occur and every industry is fostered in a healthy spirit.

Such official control is, in my opinion, called for most urgently in Bengal, to save such decaying industries in which large numbers of Bengalis are still engaged as workers and a huge sum is invested by the Bengalis. If things are left to themselves, they will soon bring about the final destruction and passing, like the match factory, from the hands of Bengalis.

The Governments of Bihar and United Provinces have protected the sugar industry and improved the conditions of cane-growers and have placed the sugar industry on a staple basis by their legislation, but nothing has been done to protect our jute-growers or to ensure a stable organisation of this principal item of our province. I would like to contrast, in this connection, the achievements with the promises which were lavishly held out by the Hon'ble Minister in his last year's budget speech. What has come out of his five-year plan? Special reference had been made by the Minister for undertaking an enquiry for supplying cheap electricity in countryside. But we have seen nothing regarding further activity in this important line, though all other provinces are already supplying or taking steps to supply cheap electricity to countryside. One thing, of course, has been achieved and that is an increase in the pay of officers from Rs. 2,24,000 to Rs. 3,31,000. But what have we gained? In my constituency weavers are slowly going out of existence. We have not given them any idea

of new design, new methods with which to acquire more efficiency. All things are left to drift as usual and will only end in total ruin of our industries, whatever are still left. There is no country in this world where such industrial anarchy is prevailing as in this poor province of ours. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to think about this and to feel for this province. Even small States, like Mysore and Baroda, are doing much more than we are doing. We cannot have this state of affairs to exist any longer, and we demand that the Ministry be called forth to justify their existence.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr Speaker, Sir, while speaking on the policy of Government on "Industry," I should just like to repudiate the remarks just now made by Mr. Wordsworth in connection with "Co-operation", as I think that "Industry" and "Co-operation" are almost allied subjects and two of the most important nation-building subjects. As I find that Mr Wordsworth has now left the House, I shall not say much on this subject. He has created an impression in the House—and I am sorry that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operation has admitted it in a way—that the people of Bengal know only how to borrow but that they are reluctant to repay. Sir, I repudiate this charge entirely. I would just like to ask whether he has got any information, or facts and figures, in support of his statement. I would ask how much each and every money-lender lent and how much he got in return and how from the beginning *hats*, bazars in muffasil towns, and the magnificent buildings, grew up.

Now I come back to "Industry." I will not touch or discuss the entire policy of Government as regards "Industry." I will only just make a few suggestions with regard to the cottage industries. In my opinion, the expansion of cottage industries is the primary and most important duty of the Government of the day. In this province, there are mills, both foreign and country-owned. I think that the mills, both foreign and country-owned, stand on the same footing, and they need not be encouraged. My idea which I would like the Hon'ble Minister to seriously consider, is whether it is possible for Government just to invest Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 thousand to each union to start cottage weaving industries in the very beginning. I know there are 5,000 union boards and I think it is not a very heavy task on the part of Government to invest Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 thousand to each union to begin with. In order to make the weaving schools or the weaving industry a success, I would request Government to tax the mill-woven cloth heavily. Of course, I do not propose that Government should try to close these mills down, but what I mean to say is that Government should see that the agriculturists can use their own hand-woven cloth. It has been found, Sir, that an agriculturist in this province requires on an average Rs. 2 per annum for his cloth. Now, if 75 per cent. of

the population of Bengal requires Rs. 2 each, it is easily imaginable what a vast sum is required for clothing the agriculturists of Bengal as a whole. I would, therefore, draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to see whether Government can at least think of such a policy and take it up without any further delay.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, I tried to listen with a great deal of patience to the speech made by the first speaker, Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar. I am afraid that he has not studied "Industry" at all. If he had understood industries, he would not speak on subjects which concern the Commerce Department. Secondly, he has spoken about salt which relates to Commerce and not to Industry. Thirdly, he has spoken about Mirjafar. On this side of the House, we do not know who the Mirjafar is. It may be that Mirjafar is more known to my friend than to us. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Coalition Benches.) Then he has talked about Marwaris, Khwajas, Ispahanis, etc., who have drained away the wealth of the province. But he must realise, Sir, that the real reason why the industrial concerns of this province have been captured by the Marwaris, Europeans and others is not what he says but because the Bengalis living in this country found it more useful to invest their money in tenancies, in zemindaries, in becoming *mahajans* and in acquiring properties. They found it a more safe investment to exploit peasants because thus their capital could be increased hundred per cent., and that is how it was left to outsiders to come and invest money in industries. This was the reason, Sir, why the industrial concerns of the province were captured by non-Bengalis and not the reason which my friend has given. My friend talks about Ganga; I would advise him to have a dip in the Ganga and thus improve his mind. (Laughter.)

Another friend of mine, Mr. Dutt, made a speech in which he criticised the work of this Ministry and talked about the Congress Ministries and the work they have done. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that he did not give any facts and figures as to what wonderful progress the Congress provinces have made. Last time, in this very House, I challenged the Opposition to give us facts and figures, and I maintained that what Bengal had done no other province in India has been able to do. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Coalition Benches.) (Cries of "Ho, ho" from Congress Benches.) It is not a question of "Ho, ho." (Laughter.) It is a question of facts and figures, of statements and of proofs. I would advise my friend that it would be better if he spoke before the Ochterloney Monument and not in this House. (Loud laughter.) (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Nawab Bahadur may also go to another place!)

Another friend of mine made a stereotyped statement saying that the Department of Industries had no policy or programme. I am very

sorry, Sir, that he did not follow my speech in which I outlined the programme of this department. I say, Sir, with all the emphasis that I can command, that we are not shirking our responsibility in this respect. We were following the five-year plan, but for the time being we have stopped it because we have set up an Industrial Survey Committee, and we want the Industrial Survey Committee to tell us whether the programme we have proceeded with should be adopted or curtailed or improved. Until that report comes, there is bound to be a stagnation. I can say, Sir, that the Industrial Survey Committee which we have set up is much better than the Congress National Planning Committee. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Good! good!) It is very good. (Laughter.) Sir, I have only a short time at my disposal; otherwise I would have given Dr Sanyal a fitting answer. He poses to be an expert in everything but really knows nothing at all.

Then, Sir, my friend Maulvi Idris Ahmed stated that Rs. 5,000 was provided as additional grant. It is a misprint. It is not Rs. 5,000 but Rs. 15,000 additional grant The original grant was Rs. 2,69,000. In addition to that, Government have provided the additional grant of Rs 15,000 So, my friend's information is absolutely incorrect. Unfortunately, my friend Maulvi Idris Ahmed does not understand English, but if he understood my English speech, which I read out in this House, he would have realised that we have done as much for silk, cotton and everything connected with Industry as any other province in India, and I am sure that in that case he would not have charged Government with having done nothing (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Do you understand English yourself?) I understand it much better than you You need not be afraid of my English, and let me tell you that I am not going to learn English from you

Sir, I would have appreciated if the Opposition had criticised Government and, at the same time, given us some helpful suggestions. That would have been welcome, but it is no good merely criticising Government Everybody can do that If the Opposition had criticised Government and, at the same time, suggested some methods by which we can make Bengal flow with money and honey then I would have appreciated it. I do not think, Sir, any other province in India has done as much, as I am led to believe by my friends on the Opposition side. I maintain, Sir, that what we have done in our department has not been done by any other province in this country

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Khagendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 16,18,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca, that a sum of Rs. 16,18,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 16th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 16th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 218 members

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

(Starred question No 203 has been deleted on account of the following remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr A K Fazlul Huq, when he was called upon to answer the question.)

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I would like to have time to answer these questions The questions that have been printed are not quite correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, I will see that the answer is placed later on

Extension of Tuberculosis Hospital in Suri Jail, Birbhum.

*204. **Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether Government contemplate extending the Tuberculosis Hospital in the Suri Jail to accommodate more patients?

(*b*) If so, is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(i) that the jail building is situated in the midst of the town and close to the court building; and

(ii) that a feeling exists in the Suri town over the accommodation of tuberculosis patients in the heart of the town?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirabilty of removing the Suri Jail Tuberculosis Hospital to a healthier station and at a distance from the locality and equipping it with up-to-date arrangement for treatment of cases?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes. The nature and extent of the alterations is under consideration.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No such representation has been made to me or to the Public Health Department.

(*c*) There is no present intention to move the jail hospital. It is the constant care of Government to provide adequate equipment.

Excise shops in respectable localities.

***205. Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state whether it is the policy of Government not to grant licences for excise shops in respectable localities?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that there exists a wine shop at 172, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta, and on the eastern side of Banerjee Lane;

(*ii*) that on both sides of the said lane there are residential houses and messes;

(*iii*) that near the shop a girls' school lies on Dr. Jagabandhu Lane;

(*iv*) that girl students of the said school have to pass by the front of the said shop;

(*v*) that inhabitants of the locality petitioned to the Excise Commissioner for the removal of the shop; but

(*vi*) that no steps have so long been taken by the Commissioner?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government propose to take in this matter?

(*d*) If no action is proposed to be taken, what are the reasons?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making a local inquiry?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut): (*a*) Licences are granted for excise shops in respectable localities if there is a proved demand for such shops.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes; it is a country spirit "off" shop, that is, a shop in which there is no consumption on the premises.

(ii) On both sides of Banerjee Lane there are jewellers' shops, carpenters' shop, laundries, tea stalls, *pan biri* shops, cow-sheds, and at least one house of ill-fame. The upper floors of some of the buildings are residential: one of these is a mess.

(iii) There is a Corporation Primary Girls' School at 37, Dr. Jagabandhu Lane, 300 to 400 yards from the shop. The route from the shop to the girls' school is by zig-zag lanes with two right-angle bends. The school is not visible from Banerjee Lane.

(iv) Girl students from the Bowbazar side going to the school ought to, as they generally do, take Jagabandhu Lane direct at its Bowbazar end, as by that lane the way is shorter. There is no house on Banerjee Lane the children of which need pass in front of the shop on their way to the school.

(v) No.

(vi) Does not arise.

(c) No action is contemplated.

(d) Any objection as to sites should have been made to the Licensing Board, Calcutta, who are to consider the same.

(e) No.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to answer (a) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of Government so far as prohibition is concerned that they should still go on sanctioning excise shops in these localities?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise, prohibition is not the question here.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I admit that prohibition is not in question here.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can raise this question under "Excise demand".

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: It has been said in answer (a) that licences are granted for excise shops in respectable localities if there is a proved demand.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot allow this question.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider the desirability of meeting the demand of the respectable people in that quarter or the demand of the people who want licence for shops there?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Absorption of discharged men appointed in the Industrial Training Camp in Departments of Government.

*206. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Special) Department aware—

(*i*) that 20 young men were appointed by the Industries Department in the Industrial Training Camp for Detenus at Dum-Dum during April, 1936;

(*ii*) that they were given to understand that their services would be confirmed in that department;

(*iii*) that all of them were given discharge notice on the 31st May, 1938;

(*iv*) that after their discharge they were given assurance of re-employment at an early date by the Industries Department;

(*v*) that no action has yet been taken by that department to that effect;

(*vi*) that some of them had chance of employment elsewhere but they could not avail themselves of the opportunity because of the prospect of being confirmed in their respective posts; and

(*vii*) that most of them are going to be age-barred for Government service very soon?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of absorbing these men in the Industries Department or in some other departments of Government?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: In accordance with their declared policy Government established certain training camps to give vocational training to detenus before release. The scheme was by its nature temporary and not permanent, and the persons referred to in the question were not detenus. They were employed in connection with the scheme in posts which were necessarily temporary, no question of confirmation could arise, nor were they given any assurance of ultimate absorption into permanent posts. At the time of their discharge they

were given no undertaking that they would be re-employed at an early date by the Department of Industries, but if opportunities for re-employing them occur in posts for which they are eligible and qualified, they will, I am informed, be considered by that department.

Youth Welfare in the province.

***207. Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount hitherto spent out of the sum provided in the Budget for the Youth Welfare,

(*b*) what purposes was the said sum spent for; and

(*c*) the amount allotted to each of the institutions and bodies which received the grants with their names?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): Actual figures will not be available until after the end of the current financial year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any allotment has been made as per question (*c*), viz., the amount allotted to each of the institutions, and if the allotments have been made, what are the allotments for this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In view of the fact that the question (*b*) has not been answered clearly, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the purpose for which the sum was to be spent?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Notice has already been given. The question (*b*) is there. I submit that answer to (*b*) has not been given clearly. That is why I ask whether the Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to state the purpose for which the sum is to be spent.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: All these questions ask for details and I have already answered that the actual figures will not be ready until after the end of the current financial year.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the answer you have said nothing about the purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Purpose also is a matter of detail. I want notice. I cannot answer it now.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the work done by the department for youth welfare?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I can say nothing more than what I have already said.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of giving the full reply to this question before the budget session is over and before this particular item is taken up?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If the figures are ready, I will certainly comply with the request.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Increased staff in the Eden Canal Department after the creation of the Damodar Canal Revenue Division.

67. Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state the number of employees in the Eden Canal staff in 1932 with their respective salaries?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any increase in the number of employees in the Eden Canal staff after the creation of the Damodar Canal Revenue Division?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative—

(*i*) what is the reason for such increase; and

(*ii*) what is the number of additional employees with their respective salaries?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) A statement (I) is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) Before 1933 irrigation in the area was done under the contract system under which only lessees of blocks were assessed and they collected rates from the tenants whose lands were benefited. Under the present system leases are executed by individual tenants who are assessed by the canal staff. Moreover certificate work which was formerly done by the Collectorate is now done by the canal staff.

(*ii*) A statement (II) showing the present staff is laid on the table.

Statement I referred to in the reply to clause (a) of the unstarred question No. 67 showing the number of employees in the Eden Canal in 1932-33 with their respective salaries.

	No.	Pay.	
		Rs.	
Revenue Muharrir . .	2	30	per month.
	1	38	per month.
	1	45	per month.
	1	31	for 2 months and
		32	for 10 months.
	5		
Patrols	1	17	per month.
	4	16	per month.
	1	14	per month.
	1	13	per month.
	7		
Barkandaz	1	16	per month.
Khalasi	1	13	per month.

Statement II referred to in the reply to clause (c) (ii) of the unstarred question No. 67 showing the present employees in the Eden Canal.

Designation.	No.	Pay.	
		Rs.	
Zilladar	1	60	per month.
Tehsildar	5	30	per month each.
Temporary Muharrir . .	1	40	per month.
Temporary Muharrir . .	7	30	per month each.
Temporary Muharrir . .	20	30	per month each for 3 months.
Barkandaz	4	14	per month each.
Peons	9	13	per month each.

Transfer of revenue jurisdiction of Nandigram thana to Bogra.

68. Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state why no arrangement for transfer of the revenue jurisdiction of the Nandigram thana to the Bogra district was made simultaneously with the transfer of Civil and Criminal jurisdictions?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Rajshahi District Board are not taking up the works in connection with the roads, bridges, etc., in the said thana?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making the transfer without further delay?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) and (*c*) The transfer of revenue jurisdiction could not be given effect to immediately as certain formalities had to be observed in consultation with the Collector of Bogra for complying with the provisions of the Tauzi Manual. It will however be given effect to from 1st April 1939.

(*b*) The roads, etc., within the area of Nandigram police-station are still being maintained by the Rajshahi District Board

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that not a single pice has been spent by the Rajshahi District Board for the maintenance of the road under Nandigram thana?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With refereence to answer (*a*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the cess collection of the Nandigram thana will be credited to the Bogra District Board fund from the 1st April?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I believe so.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,19,29,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration."

I do not propose to make any speech in support of this demand, but my colleague Mr. Suhrawardy will speak explaining the provisions for rural reconstruction.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I would not have spoken at this stage of the proceedings had it not been that this year there has been included in the Budget a new item of expenditure dealing with Rural Reconstruction. I think this House, and through this House the people outside, are entitled to know the purposes and the significance of this grant. I shall try to be brief but I hope I will be excused if I am more lengthy than usual owing to the novelty of the subject.

The honourable members will find that the grants for the Rural Reconstruction Department have been interspersed under various budget heads. The main head of expenditure is under "General Administration". There are Rs. 57,000 under Civil Secretariat; Rs. 1,54,000 under head "District Administration", Rs. 2,00,000 as discretionary grant to district officers, Rs. 15,200 for Training Institutes, Rs. 16,000 under Department of Industries, Rs. 13,000 for Adult Education, Rs. 41,000 under head "Agriculture", Rs. 5,000 each under the heads "Public Health" and "Irrigation", and Rs. 4,000 under head "Civil Works". Such a list may give the impression that Rural Reconstruction consists of these several items, but actually it is a great deal much bigger than these. I would like to disabuse any member of any idea that he may possess that Rural Reconstruction implies grants from Government for various nation-building activities in order to rehabilitate the country-side. On the other hand, these grants merely stimulate; they are merely an incentive to voluntary labour. If the future of the country-side depended upon grants from Government then it would take a very, very long time indeed, if at all, for the country-side to assume that air of progress and prosperity which we hope a well-planned national scheme of Rural Reconstruction can achieve. Rural Reconstruction has been differently defined in the various provinces. Some regard it as Debt Conciliation, or as provision for short-term credit, or as establishment or habilitation of the Co-operative Department, or as improvements in agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry farming, or as marketing and securing a better price for the agriculturist for his crops. The popular view in Bengal is that it consists in cutting canals, draining bheels, in improving roads, cutting jungles, filling up ditches, removing water-hyacinth. It is of these and of many more but yet not these. These are merely the natural consequences of Rural Reconstruction and not Rural Reconstruction itself. I visualize Rural Reconstruction as a great psychological uplift, an exaltation of the rural mind. The movement can well be described as an urge for better living, as a realisation in the

mind of the villager that his destiny is in his own hands, that he has sufficient potentialities within himself to better his condition. Its object is to arouse the villager from his lethargy and stupor and infuse in him a new hope, a new life, to make him self-reliant and self-respecting and self-sufficient. Rural Reconstruction will tend to widen his vision, to make him more receptive of ideas, to beget in him a craving for knowledge and a desire for constant improvement. I consider that a Rural Reconstruction programme well-planned and well-run will be the saving of our people and it is the greatest possible service that we can render to the poor and the suffering. Surely in this great work I have a right to claim the co-operation of all right thinking men, irrespective of political and party lines, irrespective of communal and class considerations. In this great drive against stagnation, surely I can expect help from all quarters, from the young and the old, from the rich and the poor, from the literate and the illiterate, from the landlord and the peasant, from the merchant, from the agriculturist, from the labourer, and particularly from those who feel intensely for the unhappy lot of the agriculturist and who in their own several ways,—some right and some wrong, some constructive and some destructive, are trying to alleviate their distress and bring relief where relief is so much needed. This will be the touchstone with the aid of which we shall be able to differentiate the workers from the talkers, through whose aid we shall be able to test the genuineness or otherwise of those wild protestations of extravagant sympathy in which some of us are apt to indulge.

Now what is the agency through which we propose achieving our object? I propose creating an organisation which I trust will attract the willing co-operation of all right thinking citizens. I propose in this organisation to inter-mingle the non-official with the official. I feel that Rural Reconstruction can only succeed if it has the whole-hearted co-operation of the non-officials and the more responsibility I can impose on them the happier I will feel. When it is recalled that the main function of the movement is to pool the resources of the province not merely in money, for money will form a very small part of such resources, but in labour applied to a well conceived plan, it cannot but happen that the success of Rural Reconstruction must depend upon the voluntary co-operation of the people of the province. If the officials are there they are merely to advise and to guide. The urge for betterment must come from within; it cannot be imposed from outside. Now I propose to make the village the primary unit of this organisation. Palljmangal Samities are to be formed in each village of any size worth the name. Each of these Samities will have its own office-bearers, its President and Secretary and a number of volunteers. It should be the endeavour of the Samity to enrol every single able-bodied male within the village as its members. I am for the time

being leaving the female population out of consideration in this preliminary organisation, but I do feel that their co-operation and their collaboration will be of the greatest benefit to the movement and I hope that at no distant date we shall be able to set up Ladies' Committees as well from which I am certain that the men-folk will derive inspiration and guidance and the necessary incentive for the rehabilitation of their hearths and homes. I certainly will not object if spontaneously and voluntarily ladies' committees spring up in the villages to take their proper place in this movement.

A certain number of representatives from each village will together form a Union Rural Reconstruction Society in conjunction with the members of the union board. The union board members will be the nucleus of this society. I have advisedly included them partly because the union board being a statutory body has a permanency which a voluntary organisation does not essentially possess and partly because I wish it to be recognised definitely and established beyond dispute that these rural reconstruction societies are in no way antagonistic or parallel to the union board, but merely help it to perform its own nation-building functions. In order that the Union Rural Reconstruction Society should be a success it must have the sympathy and co-operation of the union board.

Next, a number of representatives from these Union Rural Reconstruction Societies will form a Thana Rural Reconstruction Society which should be presided over by the Circle Officer. It will have as its members, apart from those representatives the non-officials, the outdoor officers of Government within whose jurisdiction a particular thana falls. I am sure that the movement will be greatly assisted by their valuable co-operation and their guidance, and I expect these officers in the course of their duties to preach the gospel of this movement and guide it along fruitful channels.

Next comes the Subdivisional Committee with the Subdivisional Officer at its head, the Circle Officers and technical officers of Government as its members along with the non-official representatives from each thana. The next step is the District Committee with the District Magistrate as its President with the technical officers of the district and non-officials of the various subdivisions. In these committees I would be happy to include the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the District Boards, the Chairmen of the Local Boards, the municipalities and the members of the Legislatures. From here we pass on to the Divisional Committee presided over by the Divisional Commissioner and then to a Provincial Committee composed of certain technical officers of Government of the nation-building departments and a number of non-officials interested in the development of the rural areas. The Minister-in-charge will be its President and the Director of Rural Reconstruction its Secretary.

Now the honourable members will see that in this scheme I have endeavoured to bring together the non-official and the official because I feel that in the complete collaboration of these two classes lies the future success of this great experiment upon which we are about to embark. In order to assist these various Committees it is proposed to appoint 27 District Rural Reconstruction Officers, to assist the District Magistrate. There will be also 27 Propaganda Officers, and for this year 250 officers whose jurisdictions will extend to a thana. It is proposed next year to raise the number to 600 so as to cover the entire province.

Government will look to the local officers for the success of the programme. The Circle Officer shall be responsible within his circle, the Subdivisional Officer within his subdivision and the District Magistrate within his district. It should be clearly understood that District Rural Reconstruction Officers whom we propose to place at the disposal of the District Magistrate will be merely assistants to the District Magistrate on whom will rest the responsibility for the movement. To the Divisional Commissioner we shall look for proper co-ordination and guidance and constant supervision of the work of the department within his jurisdiction. We may call him the Divisional Rural Reconstruction Commissioner or we may leave him with his present title, but in any event, it is on him that the major responsibility will fall. The Director of Rural Reconstruction will be the chief adviser to Government in this department. His duties are co-ordination of rural uplift work and rural reconstruction activities throughout the province, including the co-ordination of the work of the different departments of Government which are engaged in promoting the welfare of the rural population. He will constantly tour with the object of assisting and advising all officers engaged in this task. His tours will be of an extensive nature and I look to him to keep himself, and through himself the Government, informed of the rural reconstructional activities throughout the province.

Along with the organisation thus created I hope to be able to take advantage of the services of responsible but ardent men anxious to place themselves at the disposal of the organisation to act as honorary organisers. I am confident that we shall be able to secure the services of a number of such people, for I feel that the anxiety to serve and to work is widely felt and all that is required is the creation of opportunities and helpful directions. Then there are organisations as well which are engaged in social service work. I propose to assist those that are doing sound work in the rural areas.

In this connection I would like in particular to speak and to appeal to two classes of men who appear to me to be specially fitted to participate in this work, the one on account of their responsibilities to the country-side, and the other for the time and the ripe wisdom which

they can place at the disposal of the people. I refer to the landlords and to Government pensioners and other retired gentry. We possess in them invaluable source of supply and I hope that they will rise to the height of the occasion?

Now let me try and reduce the psychological urge for mass uplift into concrete forms; almost every aspect of rural life will be touched by it and, I hope, revivified. In the forefront, and as one of its most important aspects, I place adult education; which in its wider sense is almost tantamount to rural reconstruction itself, for adult education does not merely mean literacy or ability to read and write and avoid placing a thumb impression on a document. In the Rural Reconstruction Department adult education has its special significance It not merely means literacy; it means creating in the villagers a desire to acquire knowledge, to widen his vision, to know his rights and duties, to appreciate his place in the scheme of things, to expand his cultural activities, to raise his standard of living; in short, to inspire him to live a fuller life. Now, Sir, I propose to aim at establishing at least one adult school in every village, if possible, one in every *para*. Surely this ought not to be very difficult. If we place credence and reliance on that wave of sympathy for the unhappy lot of the agriculturist which is sweeping over the province and which is voiced from all parts of the House and finds an echo in the distant corners of our land, if all those who can read and write undertake the task of teaching the illiterate, surely this will be no idle dream. If I cannot go so far as to hope that teachers and groups of learners will spring up in every village and every literate person will buckle to the task, surely I can hope that primary education teachers, students, Debt Settlement clerks, dafadars, Union Board clerks and the elders of the village will take up the matter in earnest and I am certain that it will be possible to have an adult night school at least in the premises of every primary school with a little library The movement will be helped by this department by the publication of suitable primers and books, and by organising suitable lectures by officials, and by peripatetic cinemas

Now the question arises how is this venture to be financed. My objective is to try and make the village independent of Government, the District Board, or the Union Board's help as far as possible, and to put it on its own feet, but it must be recognised that organisations dependent on voluntary work are apt to languish and hence we should try and place them on a permanent footing

We may make them statutory, we may reduce them into co-operative societies, we may register them under an Act, but a consideration of these will depend on the manner of their growth; at this stage I would like to suggest one measure which may make for permanency, i.e., by the organisation of the system of *mushtibhiksha*—one *mushti*

of rice per household per day. This is not too much of a strain. As a matter of fact, it is by such means that much of the charitiable work in villages is still carried on, that the poor and the needy are able to help and assist their still more unfortunate brethren. I propose to establish *mushtibhiksha* on a sound and a firm foundation and to make it, as far as possible, proof against malversation and peculation. A proper record should be kept with the Pallimangal Samiti; there should be two cards for each house-hold—one will be kept with the house-holder and one with the collector of *mushtibhiksha;* the *mushtibhiksha* collected should be entered on both the cards; an account should be kept of the collections and sent to the Union Samiti and a proper register maintained in order to ensure continuity. The Pallimangal Samiti will be registered in the office of the Subdivisional Officer and I am certain that the subscriptions so raised by means of *mushtibhiksha* will suffice to pay the expenses of a small adult night school and indeed to meet most of the requirements of the Samiti. To supplement the income, the Union Boards may be authorised and requested, in fact, I feel that Union Boards will be only too glad, to undertake the burden of paying, say, Rs. 2 per school per month for this most laudable object.

This postulates a Pallimangal Fund or even a general Rural Reconstruction Fund. I see no objection to this; I see no reason indeed why the well-to-do villagers, landlords, *mahajans* and traders and professional men should not contribute according to their capacity towards the creation and maintenance of such a fund.

Now let me pass on to other aspects of Rural Reconstruction. I feel that it will benefit us greatly if a survey of the villagers themselves was taken before we embark upon a survey of the village itself. I think it will not be impossible to induce each villager to promise to assist in the Rural Reconstruction work in some form or other, by manual labour, by intellectual labour, by supervision or by subscription. There will thus be a drive on the part of the villagers themselves to include in the organisation as many persons as possible.

Let us endeavour to mobilise voluntary co-operation in the widest sense, and by organised work best suited to the capacity of the individual members produce the maximum effect.

Side by side we should make a survey of the village itself, note its deficiencies and requirements, and then plan to make of it a model village for model villagers. It is clear that Rural Reconstruction work must encroach on the functions of the various nation-building departments of Government. The purpose, however, will be to co-ordinate these various functions and to stimulate the departments in the exercise of these functions. It is not to be expected that every Pallimangal Samity will at once adopt all the various works of

improvement. It will take up those activities which it can more conveniently adopt; possibly it will take up those works which it considers most urgent and essential for its safety and happiness. With your leave, Sir, I will proceed to give some brief details of the work which a Samity can conveniently take up. It can put up its own Samity building, which will be the centre of its activities. It can improve the sanitation of the village and its hygiene, it can regulate rubbish heaps, clear jungles, fill ditches, disinfect and purify tanks, eradicate water-hyacinth. It can adopt improved farming methods and use improved agricultural implements; take up scientific rotation of crops, plant newer crops which may yield fair profits, learn how to conserve and prepare manure and compost and how to make silos; it may take up the problem of providing fodder for the cattle of the village by rotational planting of short hemp or Napier grass or by co-operative farming of land specially set apart by the villagers for the purpose of growing fodder crops; it may take up fruit culture or vegetable gardening or fish culture, or animal husbandry or poultry farming; it may improve roads and communications, cut khals, drain beels, open up choked drainage channels and generally improve communications. It can take up co-operative marketing of produce, establish seed stores and *dharmoolas*, it may put up industrial institutes or have its own co-operative industrial factory. A villager or two may be induced to give up a portion of his land and to serve as a demonstration farm. The officers of Government will be only too glad to give technical advice and to run it for the profit of that villager and for the instruction of his co-villagers. It may take up the arduous duty of consolidation of holdings which require great goodwill and delicate adjustment of rights; it may think of providing primary or middle schools with play-grounds for the young folk; it may excavate tanks for water-supply, or dig wells, and by its own endeavour attempt to solve the water-supply problem of the village. It may be able even to set apart a plot of land for bamboo clumps for inhabitants of the village which is so essential for its needs and requirements. If gifts of land are not forthcoming the Pallimangal Samities may acquire properties, such as tanks for rearing fish, lands to serve as seed farms and nurseries or as demonstration farms, or for fodder purposes or for bamboo clumps or for fuel farms. It may go in for hygienic houses and improved cattle sheds; it may set up its own *panchayat* to solve its various disputes and problems by arbitration; it may attempt to preserve peace and order in the locality, establish thrift societies, abolish costly and ruinous customs, inculcate habits of temperance. It could do these and more, but its greatest achievement would be if it could inculcate that sense of co-operation and of corporate life which alone is the key to future progress and achievement. I feel that all our efforts will come to nought if this sense of co-operation is not created because in that sense lies permanency. If that sense is there

we can almost achieve anything that we desire, a wonderful machinery will be created not only to supply knowledge but to receive knowledge. Do we need a census of the industries within the village? Our Samity will be able to supply it. Do we need restriction of jute cultivation and a proper supervision—whether under a voluntary or compulsory system? It is the organisation which can make it successful. Do we want to see that villagers do not contract loans, and if they do, the loan is spent on productive purposes and is not dissipated. It is this corporate feeling alone which can ensure it; more than that it will make them co-operative minded, so that they may be able to combine together voluntarily in a great permanent organisation based on co-operative principles.

In order to promote this work and stimulate a healthy rivalry, every subdivision would do well to have its best village competitions allotting marks to rural activities of various kinds. Such competitions are already held in some districts and subdivisions and have proved a great success—funds are raised, medals are awarded by public-spirited gentlemen and there are running trophies.

Now all this great organisation and this great endeavour connotes some technical training. It cannot be undertaken adequately by persons without organised knowledge, however enthusiastic and self-sacrificing they may be. For this purpose it is proposed to open training classes where specialists will impart instruction. I hope, in course of time, I shall be able to open up classes not only for officers of the Rural Reconstruction Department, not only for all outdoor officers of Government who should possess adequate knowledge of the countryside and learn how to improve conditions there, but also for social service workers and for non-officials interested in this great humanitarian work. I would like the knowledge to be disseminated far and wide so that every one may be able to contribute his own endeavour to the great cause and it is possible that it may be taken up by educational institutions. For this purpose I propose to undertake compilation of certain manuals, elementary and advanced, which will be a sufficient guide to the village samities and may help to inspire social service workers to devote themselves to the cause of the village. Sir, one could speak endlessly on this subject, but time is short. The suggestions which I have made are tentative and are obviously subject to alterations as we put them to test and gain practical experience and knowledge. There may be alterations but I believe that the main picture will remain unaltered. By raising the standard of living amongst the masses, by increasing their health, their happiness and their material prosperity, we shall, I am certain, solve to a large extent the problem of educated unemployment for which there appears to be no other solution. I would like to reiterate before I sit down that I not only look forward to but demand the co-operation of all in carrying out this programme. We are dealing with

wonderful material. The villager is a long suffering patient human being, he has borne without a murmur the rude shocks of the world; the manner in which he has been neglected and oppressed has not shaken his intrinsic sense of loyalty, has not even warped his sense of justice, has not even made him revengeful and distrustful. He has still faith and hope and in the greatness of his simple and noble soul he appreciates little acts of kindness and of service. He has never shirked his obligations, and I feel certain that properly moulded and guided he will rise to great heights of sacrifice. Surely, Sir, if God lives on earth He lives in the hovels of our poor agriculturists and I deem it a proud privilege for any one to do him obeisance and render him service.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, do you want to move your motion?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir, I do.

Mr. SPEAKER: But before you move your motion, I should like to know whether your motion is in order. Will you please explain?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, a sum of Rs. 6,14,000 has been provided,—Rs. 5,14,000 under this demand for "Election for Legislatures" and 1 lakh under "Stationery and Printing." Out of that sum, preparations are being made preliminary to the introduction of Federation that will come later on. On account of the present provision of Rs 5,14,000, which is meant for the revision of electoral rolls preparatory to the second stage, I gave notice of this cut motion. I would approach it in that light. In this connection, I would draw your attention to grant No 12 at page 77 of the Red Book and also to page 81 of the same book. Sir, I am only raising a token cut motion on a question of policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rupees 5,14,000 is for Election for Legislatures —do you mean to say that it is for the introduction of Federation?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have no knowledge that it is not for Federation. My difficulty is that I am not supplied with details. I am therefore going to presume that Federation is going to be introduced. In case, however, there is anything provided for Federation in it, then, of course, Government will have to take the views of this House before anything is done. That is the line that I am going to take.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. Then you please move your motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on the policy to be pursued by the Government of Bengal in the matter of introduction of the second part of the Government of India Act relating to Federation.

Sir, from the very big essay that has just now been read out by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Commerce and Labour, the question of Federation is really a big jump, and I would like to seek the patience of this House just in the same way, as the House had been patiently hearing the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, because I like to take the House to a subject of the supremest importance, a question of vital importance, in every sphere of our existence. The question of introduction of Federation has been discussed *in extenso* on platforms and in press, and in the Central Legislature the different parties of that Legislative body have expressed themselves in no unequivocal terms about the universal condemnation of all parties of India in the matter of introduction of the federal part. Within the short space of time available to me, I do not propose to go into the details of the federal scheme as has been conceived of, but I would only say that it is a monstrous scheme——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I am afraid you are going astray. I hope you realise that your purpose is merely to give a direction as to how Federation, if at all, ought to be ushered in

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is what I am going to do, Sir. I do not propose to examine the details of the federal scheme, and I do not want the House at this stage to have a debate on the different issues involved in the scheme itself All that I am anxious to draw attention to is what the Government of Bengal should do in the event Federation is sought to be imposed, and all that I am anxious to find out is whether the sum allotted for election to Legislatures, namely the sum of Rs 5,14,000, includes any item which, directly or indirectly, concerns the introduction of Federation There is, also as you are all aware, Sir, absolutely no prospect of election to a provincial body at this stage The only election that may take place during the next two or three years is the election to the Central Legislature. I presume, therefore, that the provision of a sum of Rs. 5,14,000 is meant mainly, if not wholly, for the election to the Central Legislature. As regards that election the Government of Bengal obviously has a duty. I submit that, so far as the election to the Legislatures under present circumstances is concerned, the Government of Bengal may make necessary arrangements, but if there is anything in it suggestive of the introduction of Federation, the Government of Bengal should

take every precaution to see that the opinion of this House and the opinion of the country at large is reflected in whatever step Government take. I understand, Sir, that in this respect there is absolutely no difference of opinion between the Congress party and the Muslim League party.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to hear from the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin whether there is anything of Federation included under this head?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I enquired of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, who said that it was very difficult to state this way or that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to have a statement from the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin: The provision of Rs. 5,14,000 is mainly on account of the proposed general revision of the electoral rolls for the constituencies of the Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Bengal Legislative Council.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow a problematic discussion unless the Hon'ble Minister says that there is something included in the amount for Federation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let the Hon'ble Minister then say definitely that the Government of Bengal is not going to do anything in connection with the introduction of Federation and I shall certainly withdraw my motion. Let him say that this grant as a whole has nothing to do with Federation.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, Sir. The reply is in the negative.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I wanted to know whether the General Administration budget has any sum of money provided anywhere which concerns the introduction of Federation.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I may say that not a farthing has been provided for Federation or any work in connection with Federation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Under the circumstances, I do not press my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is then taken that your motion is not moved.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the general policy of the Government regarding the Department of Commerce and Labour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, যেমন কৃষি-মন্ত্রীর কর্ত্তব্য কৃষকদের মঙ্গল সাধন করা সেইরূপ শ্রমিক মন্ত্রীরও কর্ত্তব্য শ্রমিকদের মঙ্গল সাধন করা।

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. May I point out that on the last occasion when I had the privilege of being attacked by the honourable member on the floor of this House, he addressed this House in English. May I expect from him the same consideration on this occasion also?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, I cannot force him to speak in English.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্য বাংলার মন্ত্রী-মণ্ডলীর মধ্যে এমন কয়েকজন মন্ত্রী আছেন যাঁহারা বাংলা বোঝেন না। কিছু দিন পূর্ব্বে——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

আমি আপনার বাংলা খুব বুঝতে পারি। আমি আপনাকে দয়া করে বলেছিলাম যে আপনি ইংরেজী বলুন।

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy will give no more demonstration of his Bengali. (Laughter.)

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: On a point of order, Sir.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি আপনার কাছে এই চাইতেছি যে বাংলা ভাষা জানার নামে বাংলা ভাষাকে কেরিকেচার (caricature) করবার অপচেষ্টা যেন এই পরিষদ কক্ষের ভিতর না হয়।

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: কিছু দিন পূর্ব্বে বিগত session এর সময় শ্রমিকমন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছিলেন যে ডাঃ বানার্জ্জী যদি serious হন তবে যেন ইংরেজীতে বলেন। তাঁর কথার অর্থ এই যে বাংলা ভাষায় কোন seriousকথা বলা যায় না। আমি এখানে খুব এই কথা বলতে চাই যে যারা আমার জীবনের সাথে পরিচিত তারা জানেন আমার জীবনের প্রতি মুহূর্ত্তই serious কাজে যায় হয়, কোন light কাজ আমি কখনো করি না। বাংলাভাষার

দুর্ভাগ্য এই যে বাংলার জনগণ যে ভাষায় কথা বলে আমরা প্রতিনিয়ত যে ভাষায় আমাদের মনের ভাব ব্যক্ত করি—বাংলার মন্ত্রীদের কেহ কেহ তাহা শুধু বোঝেন না এমন নয়—তাঁহারা তাহার নিন্দা প্রকাশ করতে দ্বিধা বোধ করেন না।

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I do not know why the honourable member sets up a windmill and then proceeds to attack it. I have never suggested that he should speak in English if he was serious. What I have said is that as on the last occasion he spoke in English, he might speak in English this time also.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you are out of order to speak about his knowledge of Bengali; you might speak about his lapse of memory. (Laughter.)

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: আমি বলছিলাম যে কৃষিমন্ত্রীর যেমন কর্ত্তব্য কৃষকদের মঙ্গলসাধন ও তাদের স্বার্থের দিকে নজর রাখা, সেইরূপ শ্রমিক মন্ত্রীরও কর্ত্তব্য শ্রমিকদের স্বার্থের দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখা এবং তারা কি চায়, তাদের অভাব অভিযোগ কি, তাহা বুঝে সেগুলি পূরণ করিবার জন্য প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা করা। আমি আজ বড় বড় কথা বলব না, রাশিয়ার শ্রমিকদের কথা তুলব না, কারণ আমি জানি বর্ত্তমানে আমরা যে প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসন পেয়েছি তার ক্ষমতা অতি সামান্য। এই সামান্য ক্ষমতার সাহায্যে রাশিয়ার মত বড় কিছু করা সম্ভব নয়। আমরা যে সামান্য ক্ষমতা পেয়েছি তার সাহায্যে যতটা করা সম্ভব আমি শুধু ততটুকুর কথাই বলব। বাংলার শ্রমিকেরা, শুধু বাংলার শ্রমিকেরাই নয়, পৃথিবীর সকল দেশের শ্রমিকেরাই চায় যে তাদের চাকুরী পাকা হোক, যেন মালিকেরা নিজেদের খামখেয়াল মত তাদের চাকুরী থেকে তাড়াতে না পারে। তারপর তারা চায় minimum wage সর্ব্বনিম্ন মাইনে, যেন অন্ততঃ তারা দু'বেলা পেট ভরে খেতে পারে। মোটামুটি স্বাস্থ্যকর জীবন যাপন করা যায় এ ধরণের থাকবার জায়গা। অসুখ হলে চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা। বিনাবেতনে ছেলে-পুলেদের শিক্ষা এবং বেকার হইলে জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহের বন্দোবস্ত অথবা ইংরাজীতে যাকে বলে unemployment allowance আর তারা চায় বৃদ্ধ বয়সে অন্যের পরমুখাপেক্ষী না হয়ে জীবন যাপন করবার মতো পেনসনের ব্যবস্থা। মনুষ্য মাত্রেরই এ গুলির প্রয়োজন এবং শ্রমিক মানুষ বলে এ গুলি তাদেরও মেলা দরকার এবং শ্রমিক মন্ত্রীর সর্ব্ব প্রধান কর্ত্তব্য তাদের যাতে এগুলি মিলে সে দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখা। যখন শ্রমিকেরা প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা করেও তাদের এসব অতি ন্যায় সঙ্গত দাবী আদায় করতে পারে না, তখন তারা নিজেদের দাবী পূরণের জন্য ইউনিয়নে সঙ্ঘবদ্ধ হয়। সুতরাং ইউনিয়ন গড়া হ'ল শ্রমিকদের মানুষের মতো বেঁচে থাকতে হলে অবশ্য কর্ত্তব্য। ইউনিয়নের প্রধান কাজ হচ্ছে মালিকদের সাথে কথা চালিয়ে শ্রমিকদের অভাব পূরণের চেষ্টা করা। এ সব কথাবার্ত্তা বিফল হলে শ্রমিকদের আর কোন উপায় থাকে না, তখন তারা ধরতাল করতে বাধ্য হয়।

এখন আমি প্রথম দাবী সম্বন্ধে সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলব। এ সব দাবী পূরণের জন্য আইন প্রণয়ন প্রয়োজন। বর্ত্তমান Government of India Act অনুসারে মাননীয় শ্রমিক মন্ত্রীর হাতে যে ক্ষমতা আছে তাতে তিনি এ ধরণের আইন প্রণয়ন করতেও পারেন। এসব ক্ষমতা যে তাঁর আছে তা তিনি জানেনও। তিনি শ্রমিক ইউনিয়নের সংস্রবে কিছু কাজ ছিলেন। শ্রমিকেরা যে কি চায় তা তাঁর অজানা নয়। তবু তিনি শ্রমিকদের জন্য এ ধরণের আইন করছেন না কেন? তার একমাত্র কারণ এই যে এসব কোরতে দেশে ইউরোপিয়ান মিল মালিকদের স্বার্থে আঘাত লাগবে এবং

সেটা করা অসম্ভব। কারণ ইউরোপিয়ানদের support না পেলে বাংলার Minister রা যে একদিনও টিকে থাকতে পারে না তা সকলেই জানেন। তিনি যে এসব করছেননা তার একমাত্র কারণ মন্ত্রীত্বের লোভ—আর কিছু নয়।

দ্বিতীয় কথা হলো শ্রমিকদের Union সম্বন্ধে। আপনারা সকলেই জানেন যে Union র প্রধান শত্রু হলো দলাদলি। আর শ্রমিকদের মধ্যে একতাই হলো Union র একমাত্র শক্তি। এই একতা ছাড়া কোন সংগঠন বা Union একদিন ও চলতে পারে না। কিন্তু মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় এ সম্বন্ধে যা করেছেন তা অতি ভয়াবহ এবং শ্রমিকস্বার্থের পক্ষে সর্বনেশে। তিনি মন্ত্রী হবার পর থেকেই চেষ্টা কোরে আসছেন বর্তমান ব্যবস্থাপরিষদের শ্রমিক প্রতিনিধিদের বাংলার মজুরদের উপর যে প্রভাব প্রতিপত্তি আছে তা কি কোরে কমান যায়। এককথায় তার একমাত্র আন্তরিক চেষ্টা হচ্ছে তাদের বাংলার শ্রমিক কেন্দ্র হোতে উৎখাৎ করা। স্বাভাবিক পথে প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা করা সত্ত্বেও যখন তাঁর এই উদ্দেশ্য সফল হল না তখন তিনি সাম্প্রদায়িক slogan এর আশ্রয় নিলেন এবং মজুরকেন্দ্রে গিয়ে বোলতে লাগলেন—লাল ঝান্ডাওয়ালা বর্তমানে যে সব ইউনিয়নে আছে সে সব হিন্দু ইউনিয়ন, মুসলমানদের সে সবে যোগ দেওয়া অন্যায়, এমন কি ধর্ম্মবিরুদ্ধ। A member from the Praja Party: এইটাই তো লিগওয়ালাদের একমাত্র অস্ত্র।) বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর গদীতে বসবার পূর্ব পর্য্যন্ত বাংলার শ্রমিকদের মধ্যে সাম্প্রদায়িক ভাব ছিল না। গেলবারে যখন শ্রমিক সদস্যেরা নির্বাচিত হোয়েছিলেন তখন হিন্দু বা মুসলমান বিচার কোরে শ্রমিকেরা তাঁদের ভোট দেয় নি। তারা যাদের ভাল মনে করেছিল সাম্প্রদায়িকতার কথা না ভেবে স্বাধীনভাবে তাদের ভোট দিয়েছিল। তারা জানে যে তাদের সমস্যা সাম্প্রদায়িক সমস্যা নয়,—তাদের সমস্যা অন্নবস্ত্রের সমস্যা এবং সেই অন্নবস্ত্রের সমস্যা হিন্দু-মুসলমান, ইহুদী, খৃষ্টান সকলের পক্ষেই সমান। তাই তারা সাম্প্রদায়িকতার দিকে লক্ষ্য না করে তাদের আসল সমস্যা অন্নবস্ত্রের কথা ভেবে স্বাধীনভাবে ভোট দিয়েছিল। কিন্তু এই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী গদীতে বসার পর থেকেই চেষ্টা করছে শুধু সাম্প্রদায়িকতার ভিত্তিতে ইউনিয়ন গড়ে তোলার। ফলে All-Bengal Jute Workers' Unionএর বিরুদ্ধে National Jute Workers' Union, Calcutta Electric Supply Workers' Union এর বিরুদ্ধে কলিকাতা বিজলী বাতি মজদুর ইউনিয়নের মতো সাম্প্রদায়িক ইউনিয়ন গোড়ে উঠেছে। এই সাম্প্রদায়িকতার বিষ মজুরদের মধ্যে এতদূর ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে যে আমার বলতে লজ্জা হয় সাম্প্রদায়িক দাবী নিয়ে শ্রমিকদের মধ্যে হরতাল পর্য্যন্ত আরম্ভ হয়েছে। কিছুদিন পূর্বে মেটিয়াবুরুজে কোন আর্থিক দাবী নিয়ে নয় শুধু সাম্প্রদায়িকতার দাবী নিয়ে একটী হরতাল পর্য্যন্ত হয়ে গিয়েছে। এরূপ লজ্জাজনক ঘটনা আজ যে আমাদের ভিতর ঘটছে তার জন্য দায়ী আমাদের বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী—বিশেষ করে আমাদের শ্রমিক-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়।

তারপর আমার তৃতীয় কথা হচ্ছে শ্রমিকদের হরতাল সম্বন্ধে, এসম্বন্ধে যত কম বলা যায় ততই ভাল। আগেও বাংলা দেশে হরতাল হয়েছে। কিন্তু এখন হরতাল হলেই হিন্দু-মুসলমানে মারামারি হয়। আপনারা সকলেই জানেন কিছুদিন পূর্বে টিটাগড়ের প্রায় ৩০,০০০ মজুর Jute ordinance এর প্রতিবাদ স্বরূপ যে হরতাল করে তা কিছুদিন চলতে না চলতেই হিন্দু-মুসলমান মারামারি সুরু হওয়ার ফলে ভেঙ্গে যায়। শুধু সেখানেই নয়, রাণীগঞ্জেও হরতালের সময় হিন্দু-মুসলমানে দাঙ্গা হয়। হরতালের সময় এধরণের মারামারি আগে হতো না—এখন হয় কেন? সে সমস্ত কথা বিস্তারিতভাবে বলার সময় এখন আমার নেই। কিন্তু আমি সদস্যদের নিকট বিশেষ করে একথা জানাচ্ছি যে প্রকৃতই আমাদের দেশের সর্বনাশ উপস্থিত হয়েছে। যদি এই সাম্প্রদায়িকতার বহ্নিকে আরো প্রসারিত হতে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে সমগ্র বাংলা পুড়ে ছাই হয়ে যাবে। তাই আমি এখানে উপস্থিত সভ্যদের সাবধান হতে বলছি। তাদের উচিত এই এসেম্বলির বিভিন্নদলের সভ্যদের নিয়ে অবিলম্বে একটী enquiry committee গঠন করা—যার একমাত্র উদ্দেশ্য হবে অনুসন্ধান করে

জানা সাম্প্রদায়িকতার বীজ বাংলাদেশে কেন এত দ্রুত করে বেড়ে চলেছে। আমি যতটা টের পেয়েছি Bengal Labour Welfare fund এ যে টাকাটা গবর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে দেওয়া হয় তাদ্বারা শুধে একদল দালাল পোষন করা হচ্ছে যাদের একমাত্র কাজ শ্রমিক মহল্লায় ঘুরে বেড়িয়ে উগ্র সাম্প্রদায়িকতার বিষ ছড়ান। এ বিষে সারা বাংলা অতি দ্রুত জর্জ্জরিত হয়ে উঠছে। এ শুধু হিন্দু কিংবা মুসলমানের প্রশ্ন নয়—এটা হিন্দু-মুসলমান বাংলার শ্রমিক ও কৃষক সকলের প্রশ্ন। সুতরাং বাঙ্গালী মাত্রেরই সাবধান হওয়া উচিত। এই কথাগুলি আপনাদের বিবেচনার জন্য উপস্থিত করাই আমার এই একশত (১০০৲) টাকার cut motion আনার উদ্দেশ্য।

Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I beg to move that the demand of Rs 1,19,29,000 under the head "25- General Administration" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the desirability of adequate representation of scheduled castes in local bodies.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that representation of the scheduled castes in local bodies is very inadequate. Sir, the scheduled castes are backward and at the same time are minority in number. They cannot successfully contest the election with the advanced and majority communities. In order to look to the rights and interests of the scheduled castes it is necessary that they should be given adequate representation. But it is regrettable that Government is callous and indifferent to see to the interests of the minority communities and scheduled castes.

The system of nomination is there for giving adequate representation to the communities who are unable to contest the elections. But the policy of the present Government is not to secure proper and adequate representation by nomination of the minority communities but the policy of this Government is to give nomination to the majority advanced community who capture almost all the elected seats in the local bodies. Again the policy of the present Government is not only to give greater number of nomination to the majority community but it has also been a most important policy of the Government to give nominations to those members of the Legislature who will give undertaking to the Ministers of their blind support disregarding the claims of the minority communities and also disregarding the claims of those who are not members of the Legislature. I condemn this policy of the Hon'ble Ministers who do not care for anything else but care only for their own stability and support. The Hon'ble Ministers do not feel ashamed of their policy and conduct though they are being condemned publicly for their policy.

In my district of Dinajpur most of the seats in local boards and district boards have been captured by the majority community that is by the Muslim community. But in spite of their over-representation nominations were also given to them lavishly. In the Thakurgaon Local Board the number of elected Muhammadans is 7 out of 10 elected

seats and out of 5 nominations 2 were given to the Muhammadans. The Muhammadans being in overwhelming majority in the Thakurgaon Local Board not a single Hindu either general or scheduled castes has been sent to the district board nor any member of the scheduled castes or general Hindu has been given any office in the Thakurgaon Local Board. The Muhammadans have taken all the 6 elected seats in the district board. Government, we understand, is again going to give nominations to them. The Hon'ble Ministers do not care whether the general Hindus or the scheduled castes Hindus of the Thakurgaon subdivision be represented to the district board or not, but all that they care for is to look for their own supporters. I understand the Ministers will give nominations to the Muhammadan M.L.A. of the Thakurgaon subdivision and also to the other Muhammadan M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s of Dinajpur.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Not to the scheduled castes M.L.A.'s!

Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: . . . . . ignoring the legitimate claims of the general and scheduled castes Hindus of the Thakurgaon subdivision. If the Hon'ble Ministers claim to be fair and just to all communities, it is their duty to give nominations to the general Hindus and scheduled castes Hindus of the Thakurgaon subdivision in proportion to the nominations to be given to the District Board of Dinajpur. In all there are 9 nominations for the District Board of Dinajpur and there are 3 subdivisions in the district. As no general Hindu and scheduled castes Hindu has been able to come to the District Board by election by members of the Thakurgaon Local Board, it is just and equitable that 3 out of 9 nominations should go to Thakurgaon and that those 3 nominations should be given to general Hindus and scheduled castes Hindus of Thakurgaon, i.e., 1 to the general Hindu and 2 to the scheduled castes Hindus as the number of scheduled castes is by far the greater than the number of the general Hindus in that subdivision.

May I ask the Hon'ble Ministers whether they have the strength and courage to look into the legitimate claims of the Hindus of the Thakurgaon subdivision. I can dare say that they have not this courage and they will not be able to refuse nominations to the Muhammadan M.L.A.'s of the Thakurgaon subdivision, nor would they be able to refuse to give nomination to other Muhammadan M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s and give nominations to other suitable Muhammadans and Hindus of the district.

Do the Hon'ble Ministers think that except the M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s there are no suitable Hindus and Muhammadans capable of rendering service to the District Board of Dinajpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Do you think that there are?

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Certainly there are. I hope and expect that the Hon'ble Ministers should take courage and do justice to all and thereby earn the confidence and goodwill of all classes of the public of Dinajpur.

Sir, I also want to say a few words with regard to the services. Sir, in the matter of appointment to the public services the Hon'ble Ministers are guilty of nepotism and favouritism. They do not look to the qualifications of the candidates nor to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission, but they look to their own stability. They give appointments not to the qualified candidates of different communities but they give appointments to sons and relatives of the M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s with a view to have the support of those members of the Legislature whose sons and relations are appointed. This sort of nepotism and favouritism in public services must be condemned. It is a pity that the administration of the premier province of Bengal should reach such a degraded level.

Sir, I also want to say a few words with regard to the failure of the Government to effect economy in the cost of the administration of the country. Sir, though it is an admitted fact that the administration is topheavy it is regrettable that Hon'ble Ministers in charge of the administration of the province are so callous and indifferent to minimise the cost of administration. Sir, the pay of the officers of the Government is excessive. In spite of this glaring and excessive pay of the Government servants the Hon'ble Ministers do not care to take drastic steps to reduce the fat salaries of the Government servants. Most of the revenues of the province are spent for paying the officers of the Government and a very small portion of the provincial revenue is left for uplifting and improving the miserable condition of the people of Bengal. Sir, it is true that the Provincial Governments cannot touch the salaries of the members of the Civil Services but they have the power to reduce the salaries of the provincial service-holders. But, in spite of this power, Government have done very little to reduce the salaries of the provincial service-holders. Sir, I suggest that let there be a reduction of 25 per cent. of the salaries of all Provincial Government servants who draw Rs. 200 or more per month. If this is done the Government will not have to go in for loans for meeting the deficit budget. Sir, in these days of trade depression when the prices of all necessaries of life have gone to the lowest level, Government servants who draw more than Rs. 200 per month will not be affected at all if their salaries are reduced by 25 per cent. Government should not allow the fat-salaried Government servants to hoard up money when

the people in the country are dying by thousands of malaria, kala-azar and other fell diseases and cannot get any benefit from the Government in return for their paying various kinds of taxes and duties. The Hon'ble Ministers should bear in mind that the people do not exist for the Government, but the Government do exist for the people. Let the people first live and then let the Government and Government servants live. With these words, I commend my motion to the House.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to discuss the failure of the Government to grant the right of free expression of opinion to the citizens in Calcutta and in mufassal.

Sir, at the very beginning I must assert, and very strongly too, that this Government completely failed to give freedom of expression of opinion and freedom of action to the citizens of the province and especially to those groups and organizations who work against the present Cabinet and the Government. As the time is very short, Sir, I shall place before this House a short list of the occasions when attempts were made to suppress public opinion. A paper called "Krishak Proja" was started by our party and it was practically taken charge over by force. A meeting of the Krishak Proja Samity was going to be held at Gaibandha and respectable members of this House and some other members were sent by Ministers of the Cabinet to create disturbances, and following them the District Magistrate and his wife, who happened to be a near relative of a Minister of the Cabinet, occupied the dâk bungalows and the inspection bungalows so that the guests might not remain there and the meeting might not take place. A meeting was going to be held at Faridpur and it was going to be presided over by my friend Mr. Abul Fazl, a member of this House, and it was violently dispersed and the meeting could not take place. It is also a known fact that two respectable members of the society, Professor Humayun Kabir and Maulvi Abul Mansur, were attacked near Park Circus, and though it was reported in the papers no active steps were taken to suppress the hooligans. On the other hand, it is reported that two respectable members of this Cabinet shook hands with some of the organizers of that riot. It is also a known fact, Sir, that a respectable member of this House, I mean Dr. Sanaullah, was attacked in Chittagong and the case started by him was practically suppressed. It is also a known fact, Sir, that one of the respectable workers of our Association, Mr. Asfandi, was attacked openly in Chitpore, and though it was reported in the papers, yet no active steps were taken. A disturbance was created in the Railway Station at Chittagong when a respectable member of this House, Maulana Md. Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, was going to Chittagong and no active

steps were taken to suppress that riot. It is also a known fact, Sir, that mass demonstrations were organized when the no-confidence motions were being discussed in this House. It became so very threatening that some members who moved the no-confidence motions were compelled to take shelter in the Legislative Chamber under your protection? Sir, it is also a known fact that a meeting was held in the Dental Hall which ended in an uproar in the presence of respectable police officers like Mr. Robertson, and an adjournment motion was discussed in this House on the subject. It is also a known fact, Sir, when another group or another organization, called the Progressive Muslims, was having a meeting in the Albert Hall, that meeting was taken possession of by some members of the Khilafat Committee existing in Calcutta. It is also a known fact that when our Samity was having a meeting at Bhengula, some hooligans organized into riotous gangs with the sole purpose of creating a disturbance. It was reported that an honourable member of this House and the Marriage Registrar of Pingna organized that demonstration. It is also a known fact that some disturbance was created by the thana officer of Hajiganj in Chandpur when one honourable member of this House was having a meeting there. The Subdivisional Officer, the Circle Officer, and the police officer also combined in instituting a false rioting case in connection with the meeting.

Now the question arises, Sir, why these disturbances are created? I submit that the prominent members of the present Cabinet who belong to the Muslim League do not like any class organization or special organization like the Krishak Proja Samity which is organized chiefly by the *bona fide* inhabitants of Bengal and which does not try to give any privilege to any foreigners or persons who come from some other provinces. It is also a known fact, Sir, that the gentlemen of the Muslim League cannot tolerate a third organization in the country. I think they hope to make some coalition with the Congress when the Federation is established. I think the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy and the Hon'ble Mr. Nazimuddin are hoping to raise the Congress flag when the Congress Government is established. Instances supporting the above view are not rare. Sir, I bring to the notice of the House that when any Congress meeting is held in any part of the country, no disturbance is created by the present Government or by the Muslim Leaguewalas.

It is also a broad fact that we, the members of the Krishak Proja Party, differed from the Coalition Party on the question of release of the detenus. We implored them to release the detenus, but Government turned a deaf ear to our proposal. But when Mahatma Gandhi came here, just like good boys the Government released the detenus without any murmur——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Do not pretend that you do not belong to the Congress—(Laughter from the Coalition Benches.)

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Some members may laugh and some may say that we belong to the Congress, but I assert that one day some of the members of this Cabinet will accept the leadership of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose without any hesitation. I bring to your notice the incidents which happened during the electioneering campaign of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq when I had the fortune or misfortune of working under him——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, I cannot allow you to have a free expression of opinion (Laughter), but would ask you to confine yourself purely to the subject-matter under discussion.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I bow down to your ruling, Sir. But I find the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin is now working like a good boy under the leadership of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq.

There are other grounds why the members of the present Government want to suppress us and their political adherents are trying to exploit Bengal to establish their supremacy. One group is the "Azad" group. The editor of the "Azad" has got sufficient reasons to try to suppress us. At one time he belonged to our party, but, fortunately or unfortunately, he could not carry on with us. He left us and joined the Muslim League. That is one of the grounds why his paper has been subsidised by Government this year. It was reported in a paper that this gentleman took away some money from the Arrah Fund——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, this is not an occasion on which you can cast any aspersion on a person who is not a member of this House. You can criticise Government and ventilate your grievances.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. I believe there is a grant specifically mentioned for a journal, and the gentleman referred to conducts that journal. I submit the character of the journal and the persons connected with it can be criticised by members with a view to see how far Government is justified in granting money to that journal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you have misunderstood the reason why I interfered at that stage. I think democracy will degenerate into the worst form if we allow our Legislature to discuss matters which are not absolutely beyond all doubts. I do not say that you cannot criticise the conduct of a person if there is a judicial decision which is something of the nature of a public property. But, otherwise, any

matter which has not been given a verdict on by a court of law cannot be raised and criticised here. It is an elementary principle that a man ought not to be criticised without being given an opportunity to defend his position here. Take the Arrah Case, for instance. If there was a judicial decision on it, I would have certainly permitted Mr. Sarkar to refer to it. But in the absence of any such finding by a court of law and in the absence of the person concerned, who will not be able to vindicate his position, I cannot permit it.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: But I appeal to you, Sir, to see that my precious minutes are not lost.

We are in the Opposition, and this year this paper has been subsidised by the Government with a grant of Rs. 30,000 with the object of attacking us. There are also other schools of political thought who want to suppress us. The Dacca school of politics is one, for instance. Fortunately or unfortunately, the Dacca politicians got some supremacy in the Government of Bengal in the time of Sir John Anderson. They want to keep that position, and it is asserted by some papers that this Government of Bengal has become the private property of the Dacca house. That I am justified in saying so will be borne out by the fact that nearly a dozen members of that family, including a lady member of this House, are in this Legislature. Last night the Nawab Bahadur advised me to have a bath in the Ganges for my purification. May I point out to him that I do not require such a bath, I do not require purification, but it is the gentleman who has been always after slow horses and fast women, who requires purification by a dip in the Ganges——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, Mr. Sarkar, you know perfectly well that I compelled some one to withdraw that expression the other day. Will you withdraw that expression now? (Cries of "Withdraw, withdraw" from the Coalition Benches.)

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: All right, Sir, I withdraw.

Then, Sir, another set of persons who are trying to suppress us are the Khilafatists of Calcutta led by the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy. He was in the Congress Group for some time, but after the unfortunate "cheque" incident, which compelled him to retire from the Congress politics, he organised the *baburchis* and *khansamas* of Calcutta. Many people know that he used to hold public meetings at Park Circus in order to organise the Khilafatists. And it is a known fact that he entered the Cabinet by holding out a threat, when the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq, and people of our way of thinking, were opposed to his entering the Cabinet. At that time I happened to be the Secretary of Mr. Fazlul Huq, and a gentleman of the up-country went to

Mr. Fazlul Huq and said মেরে সাহওর্দ্দি সাহেবকো লেনেহি পড়েগা। Indeed Mr. Fazlul Huq was cowed down and Mr. Suhrawardy was taken into the Cabinet.

(At this stage the member was reminded of having reached the time-limit and was allowed three minutes more on request.)

That is why these different groups of politicians are trying to suppress us, the Krishak-Proja organisers, but may I point out that suppression can never be successful, no movement can be checked by supression or tyrannical oppression. I may remind Mr. Suhrawardy that this kind of suppression went on in Bengal some time ago—the suppression and oppression inaugurated by Sir Charles Tegart and Sir William Prentice. Since the Mina Peshawari incident, every one knows how Mr. Suhrawardy, too, was hounded down by Sir Charles Tegart. Had Sir William Prentice not been taken away by death and Sir Charles Tegart not retired after the Dalhousie Square incident, Mr. Suhrawardy would have been prosecuted under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code and would not have been here as a Minister, but in spite of all these things I am surprised to find that a section of the honourable members of this House are supporting this Cabinet There may be some misapprehension I do not care what Mr Abdul Latif Biswas and Company say about it I know that the country-people take their speeches no better than the reports of drain-inspectors (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What about you?) I do not care what my friend Maulvi Abdul Bari says, because it is well known that he is born in the same village where Gopal Bhand, the renowned courtier of Raja Krishna Chandra of Nadia, was born (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr Sarkar, I wonder how you get all this information? (Laughter.)

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I do not care what Maulvi Golam Sarwar or Maulvi Mozammel Huq says about their feelings I consider their performance just like the performance of a modern Falstaff. I am only sorry for my friend Maulvi Abul Hashim, who comes from an illustrious family and is a son of an illustrious father. He made a speech the other day that we Muhammadans are not confined by the barriers of province or by the barriers of language, that we belong to one religion, and that Muhammadans all over the world should unite. But may I remind him that, by saying so, he has now become the harbourer of lost causes The establishment of political parties on a religious basis is a by-gone and exploded theory. It was tried very many times; it was tried by our Hindu Rajas like Yudhisthir but it failed; it was tried by the Popes of Europe but it failed again; it was tried by that Khalifas of the Islamic world, and there again it failed. Therefore, Sir, I repeat that it is an exploded theory; and I

would ask Maulvi Abul Hashim to re-read the history of India. When the Moghuls invaded Bengal, the Pathans did not embrace them as their co-religionists. On the other hand——

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: May I have three minutes more to finish my speech, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot allow you any further time. You must leave the Pathans where they are (Laughter.)

(The member then resumed his seat.)

The Assembly was then adjourned for 15 minutes

(After adjournment.)

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "General Administration—General" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion on the general policy of Government, particularly with respect to the spread of communalism and its effects on the entire administration, and the Ministry directly encouraging the same

Since the inauguration of the so-called Provincial Autonomy a popular Ministry with Mr. A K Fazlul Huq as the Chief Minister has been functioning in this province In other words a National Government has been formed. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister fought the election as the leader of the Krishak Proja party. Sir, it is a mystery to us how the leader of a non-communal mass organisation could get himself initiated into the cult of communalism. He declared open war against the twenty-two crores of Hindus inhabiting British India and he is out to crush the Congress and the Opposition. He cannot even brook the idea that the Congress and the Opposition should receive any consideration from the officers under his Government even in administrative affairs. His appeal to his brothers-in-faith, his public utterances at Comilla, at Lucknow and at Karachi, his speeches inside the Legislature and outside, and, last but not the least, his letter to Chaudhury Shamsuddin substantiate the charges involved in this motion.

Sir, there is no denying the fact that communalism has now spread far and wide and that pamphlets are circulated from day to day containing wild and baseless allegations, with the deliberate intention of inciting the illiterate Muhammadan masses against the Hindus in

general. The *Azad* in its precious columns, has been systematically carrying on communal propaganda and has been vitiating the atmosphere of Bengal with the communal poison and this has tainted even the school boys and children.

Sir, it is my information that orders of transfer of some Hindu Police officers, particularly those placed in charge of police-stations in districts within the Bakarganj range to districts outside the range were passed, to be replaced by Muhammadan officers. If my information is correct, may I enquire of the Hon'ble the Home Minister if it is because he had been getting evidence daily about the disloyalty of the Hindu officers? The letter just now referred to reveals the inner working of the mind of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. It discloses a conspiracy against Hindu officers from behind the scene and also the fact that he has been getting evidence from day to day about the disloyalty of the Hindu officers. May I ask, with all humility, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and other members of the Cabinet, who are the persons responsible for supplying the materials about the disloyalty of the Hindu officers? Are they the over-zealous Muhammadan members of the Coalition Party or their supporters in the districts or the communally-minded Government servants?

Now, Sir, I shall refer to the state of things prevailing in my own district—the district of Noakhali—to substantiate the charges. A particular member belonging to the Coalition Party coming from my district has been preaching communal hatred for the last two years openly in public meetings and as the result of his activities, several mischievous acts have been committed on the peaceful and law-abiding citizens. (Cries of "Question") These facts were reported to the authorities but, Sir, no action seems to have been taken. The general impression is that this gentleman has got the backing of the Ministry and he can make and unmake things and his misdeeds are condoned by the authorities. Another Muhammadan member—a gentleman belonging to the Coalition Group—has also encouraged communal feelings in his constituency (Cries of "Question"), and his activities were also reported to the authorities but no action has been taken. On the contrary, he has been honoured with a Government title and his son-in-law has been appointed a Sub-Registrar (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches).

I shall now refer to the unfortunate incident which took place in the Feni subdivision. The Subdivisional Officer happens to be a Muhammadan gentleman and is the President of the local *Id Mahfel* Committee. He took it into his head to construct an *Idgah* in the heart of the Feni town. I fail to understand how the construction of an *Idgah* in the heart of the town will contribute to the uplift of the rural population of the Feni subdivision.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: How does it affect you?

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: I am coming to that. From January 13 for about a fortnight Muslim population in large numbers representing different union boards, different associations and rival parties marched in processions, carrying flags and festoons and crying various slogans, sometimes accompanied by music and band parties to Feni town. Simultaneously, some mischief-mongers spread an unfounded rumour to the effect that Hindus were secretly conspiring to stop cow-sacrifice on the occasion of the *Bakr-Id*, and for this purpose they had imported goondas from outside the province. It seems to me that those unscrupulous persons, in order to please the Subdivisional Officer, had taken recourse to such mischievous propaganda for the purpose of attracting a large number of villagers to take up the work of raising the site of the *Idgah*. Thirty-thousand villagers came to the Feni town and raised the site of the *Idgah*. Then, Sir, to aggravate the situation, picketings were resorted to on *hat* days before the *Bakr-Id* and Muhammadans were prevented from making purchases from Hindu shops. All these facts were brought to the notice of the authorities and timely warning came from responsible quarters. There was difference of opinion on this matter between the Inspector of Police, Feni Circle, and the Subdivisional Officer, Feni. Perhaps the Subdivisional Officer might have submitted several reports against the disloyalty of this Inspector of Police. The authorities did not take any preventive measures just as the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail did in similar circumstances. The result was as anticipated. On the *Bakr-Id* day about 50,000 people assembled at the newly constructed *Idgah* and a Maulana was requisitioned from Calcutta to lead the prayers. After the congregation dispersed, some Muhammadans travelled in a motor-car from Feni and stopped near Fazilpur railway station. Immediately after this, some hooligans raised an alarm. By this time, the Korbani had passed off quite smoothly. But within a short time after this alarm had been given, Muslim villagers numbering several thousands between Muhuriganj railway station and Fazilpur railway station stirred out of their homes, armed with deadly weapons such as *dao*, *chhera*, axe and spade, etc.

(Here the member reached the time-limit and was allowed one minute to finish his speech.)

The Hindu houses of the village were then raided. I have already issued a statement in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* about this incident. I stick to that statement and I am prepared to face an open trial if there is any exaggeration in the statement. Information had been lodged with the thana, but the mystery is that not a single Muhammadan could be available to help the police officer in the matter of investigation. Is it believable that though the occurrence did take

place in broad day-light, between two and three, the villagers could not identify any of the raiders. This is the effect of communal preachings. The Muhammadan villagers, being poisoned with communalism, have lost all sense of justice and neighbourly feelings. Sir, if this state of things continues, none would be immune from the communal bias, be he a Hindu or a Muhammadan, and the administration will collapse very soon. The Muhammadan officers will always look upon their Hindu subordinates with mistrust and suspicion and *vice versa*, and even the judiciary will be affected. A Muhammadan judge will dispose of cases in favour of Muhammadans and a Hindu judge will dispose of cases in favour of Hindus; so administration will be impossible and law and order will be replaced by anarchy and disorder. With there words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: I am deeply grateful to my friend Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar for the courtesy he has shown to me by referring to me. He referred to my father late Maulvi Abul Kasem of Burdwan. My father was my political leader, and it has always been my ambition to maintain his traditions. On the occasion of the discussion on the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Bill I said something about the Hindu and Congress ideas of nationalism. In that connection I said that their idea was a cheap imitation of the much accursed idea of European nationalism. On the following day he informed me that he would give me a reply when he would get an opportunity and to-day he has got that opportunity. I am extremely sorry to find that he, like all other Moslem young friends of ours who have been long in contact with those whom we consider thoroughly ignorant of and hostile to the philosophy and principle of Islam, has behaved in a way which clearly shows his colossal ignorance of the great religion and thought that he is supposed to subscribe to. Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar and many others on the floor of this Assembly have more than once said that we the Muslim members of the Coalition party always raise a false cry of Islam in danger. I am the last person to believe that, even if all the Muslims are driven out of the soil of India, Islam will ever be in danger. But we are mightily afraid that Islam in India will be in danger if the Muslims fall a prey to the bewildering and puzzling tactics and words of our friends sitting opposite just as my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar has fallen. In this connection I may cite an instance as to how Islam can be in danger in India. So long as there is not a clear solution of the problem known as the Hindu-Moslem problem, if the Moslems go and surrender to our friends unconditionally, Islam will be in danger in India. During the last *Bakr-Id* ceremony one of my Muhammadan friends, in order to get elected to the local board, signed the Congress creed. I was simply astonished to hear that he did not permit his own cousin to sacrifice

cow on the occasion of the *Korbani*... (Cries of "Shame, shame") fearing that if he did so, his name would be chucked out of the Congress list. I know of one young man who while saying prayers during the Id ceremony when we say Allaho Akbar said Inquilab Zindabad. There is an apprehension that if we allow our young men to be caught in the trap, Islam will certainly be in danger in India. Those Muhammadan young friends who are with our friends in the Opposition have developed a mentality which is not only hostile to Islam but prompts them to take pride in decrying everything that belongs to Islam. I doubt very much whether they believe in the holy Koran or anything that the Prophet has said (Cry of "No") Yes; that is my experience and I know many friends like yourselves.

I am surprised that Mr Abu Hossain Sarkar, while referring to Mr Suhrawardy, said that he is a leader of the *baburchis* and *chaprasis* He ought to have been ashamed of his conduct. I am not the least ashamed to say that most of the members of my community are poor men, but our friends opposite take pride in championing the cause of the poor and in calling us a party of zemindars, Knights, and landlords. I do not understand why he thinks that to become a leader of the *chaprasis* and *baburchis* is a matter of disgrace Whatever these men may be, I am certain that an ordinary average Muslim, be he an illiterate *baburchi* or *chaprashi* or coachman, is a much better man than a highly-cultured man who is ignorant of the teachings and preachings of Islam

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: So far as communalism is concerned he is right.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Very often and repeatedly, whenever anything regarding Islam is said, our friends say that we are talking of communalism. How often shall I tell them that Islam has nothing to do with communalism.

Mr. Abu Hossain Sarker has said that all attempts at organising the world on a religious basis would be a faliure He referred to Judhisthir and most irrelevantly to the Pathans and Moghuls and others. As a student of history he ought to know that the downfall of Islam began long before the first Muslim set his foot on the soil of India. Babar, Humayun, Akbar, and other great Moghuls and Pathans cannot be taken as ideal Muslims. If he does not know what Islam is, he ought to read the Koran, the life of the Prophet, and the lives of the Khalifs of Arabia. It may be that the manner in which I behave or the members of the Coalition Party behave is contrary to the principle of Islam, but it is not sufficient reason for anybody not to go back to the Koran and the great Khalifs who created a new civilisation. I know that between our friends opposite and ourselves there is a historical jealousy To-day we feel that it has

been very unfortunate that the Muslims ruled India for several centuries. This is a barrier which keeps us apart from each other. Our friends think that since the Muslims were their previous masters, they must be brought down to the position of their slaves. On the other hand, the Muslims feel that because once they ruled India they should not surrender to the Hindus. If we Hindus and Mussalmans take out of our minds these historical affairs and try to understand each other in a proper attitude, there might be a better understanding sooner or later.

Similar has been the case with our European friends. The Europeans always think of Saladin and the crusade and this has been a barrier between them and us for a proper understanding of things. It is very fortunate that the Europeans have now begun to take a more charitable view of this. Our friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar and others who think that the world cannot be organised and improved on a religious basis perhaps think of Karl Marx and Lenin. I doubt very much, and as I grow in experience—

(Here the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to finish his speech.)

I am convinced that very few of my friends opposite have that intellectual capacity which is necessary to understand Karl Marx properly. Their knowledge is derived from cheap publications here sold in the streets of Calcutta From these books they learn socialism and, learning it as they do, they think that no other religion can stand competition I do not say that Islam is the best religion though I believe it. But I assert that in the world-market of thought this commodity has a very fair and respectable place It is fair to study it, and I am sure they have not studied it because they very often exhibit their colossal ignorance I would advise them to study this in a proper attitude, and then compare it with their so-called socialistic ideas. If they find that they can accept it they should get themselves reconverted. Sir, I am a Muslim; I am born in a Muslim family; but one must also be a Muslim by choice. It may be that all the Muslims of India are not Muslims in the proper sense of the term. I invite my friends to study and understand Islam and be true Mussalmans.

Sir, with regard to my friend, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, I have often heard him say that in Bengal there are Muslims other than Bengalee Muslims. He talks of Marwaris, Rajputs and Mahrattas at the same time. I think he belongs to a school of thought which believes in Indian Nationalism.

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to give effect to the resolution passed in the Assembly on the 25th August, 1938, regarding the question of fixing a high percentage of appointments of Muslims and Scheduled Castes in public services.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, ১৯৩৮ইং ২৫শে আগষ্ট তারিখে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের জনৈক মেম্বর সরকারী চাকুরীর উর্দ্ধতন ও নিম্নতন বিভাগে শতকরা ৬০টী চাকুরীতে মুসলমান, শতকরা ২০টীতে তপশিল ভুক্ত হিন্দু সম্প্রদায় এবং ২০টীতে অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ের লোক নিযুক্ত করিবার জন্য অগোনে ব্যবস্থা করিবার যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিয়াছিলেন সেই প্রস্তাব আজ পর্য্যন্তও কার্য্যকরী না হওয়ায় তাহা অনতিবিলম্বে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে কার্য্যে পরিণত করিবার জন্য আমি অদ্য এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিতেছি। হাউসের অবগতির জন্য উক্ত মেম্বরের প্রস্তাব উদ্ধৃত করিতেছি। তিনি প্রস্তাব করিয়াছিলেন—

"With a view to give effect to the assurances given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the course of the debate on cut motion moved by Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan on the 10th March, 1938, regarding the question of fixing a high percentage of appointments of Muslims and Scheduled Castes in public services, this Assembly is of opinion that the following percentages be fixed; namely:

	Per cent.
Muslims	60
Scheduled castes .	20
Rest .	20

For all appointments in various branches of the public services as well as in all civil posts under Government, whether temporary or permanent, whether made on the basis of full-time or part-time duty

Provided also that the Government should submit a half-yearly report to the Assembly regarding the progress of appointments and the recruitment of the various communities to the various branches of public and civil appointments show how far the recommendation of the Assembly has been actually carried into effect with explanation for any lag that exist between the percentage actually held by or allotted to a community."

মিঃ তমিজুদ্দিন খান্ ১৯৩৮ ইং ১০ই মার্চ্চ তারিখে যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিয়াছিলেন তাহা এইরূপ:—

"I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,14,08,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of the motion as stated in the order paper is to draw the attention of this House to the failure of the Government to declare a definite policy in regard to all classes of appointments by reserving

a high percentage of posts for Musalmans and members of the Scheduled Castes with a view to secure for their employment on population basis within a specific period of time."

২৫শে আগষ্ট ১৯৩৮ইং তারিখে মন্ত্রীদলের মেম্বার যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিয়াছিলেন উক্ত প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে কৃষক প্রজা পার্টির মৌলবী রমিজুদ্দিন আহাম্মদ সাহেব সর্ব্বপ্রকারের সরকারী চাকুরীর শতকরা ৭০টী পদে মুসলমান নিয়োগের বিধান রাখিবার ব্যবস্থা করিবার জন্য একটি সংশোধন প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিয়াছিলেন। অনেক সমালোচনার পর হাউসের ডিভিসনে উক্ত প্রস্তাবটি পরিত্যক্ত হয়। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী, দলীলপন্থী মুসলমান, জাতীয় হিন্দুদল, ইউরোপীয়ান এবং এংলো ইণ্ডিয়ান দল প্রস্তাবের বিপক্ষে ভোট দেন; কংগ্রেস দল নিরপেক্ষ ছিলেন। কংগ্রেস দলপতি মিঃ শরৎচন্দ্র বসু মহাশয় তাঁহার বক্তৃতায় বলিয়াছিলেন যে যদি প্রধান মন্ত্রী উক্ত প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে কি পন্থা অবলম্বন করিবেন তাহা ব্যক্ত করেন এবং বিভিন্ন সম্প্রদায়ের কর্ম্ম প্রার্থীগণের মধ্য হইতে প্রাতিযোগিতামূলক পরীক্ষা দ্বারা সরকারী চাকুরীতে লোক নিযুক্ত করিবেন বলিয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি দেন, তাহা হইলে কংগ্রেস পার্টী এই প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে তাঁহাদের মতামত ব্যক্ত করিবেন। তিনি ইহাও বলেন যে তিনি মুসলমান ও তপছিল ভুক্ত হিন্দু সম্প্রদায়ের লোককে সরকারী চাকুরীর অধিক সংখ্যক পদে নিযুক্ত করার পক্ষপাতী। মন্ত্রীদলের মেম্বারের উত্থাপিত শতকরা ৬০টী চাকুরীতে মুসলমান, ২০টীতে তপছিল ভুক্ত হিন্দু ও বাকী ২০টীতে অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ের লোক নিয়োগের মূল প্রস্তাবটি বিনা ডিভিসনে পাশ হয়। মন্ত্রীদলের অনেক মেম্বার অনেক বড় বড় বুলি আওড়াইয়া কৃষক প্রজা দলকে আক্রমন করিয়া হাত নাড়িয়া বক্তৃতা দিয়াছিলেন। তাঁহাদের উদ্দেশ্য ছিল যে ইহাতে দেশে তাঁহাদের মান মর্য্যাদা বৃদ্ধি পাইবে। কিন্তু আমরা তাঁহাদের মান মর্য্যাদা বৃদ্ধির বিরোধী নহি। যদি তাঁহারা গরীবদের উপকার করেন, দেশের কাজ করেন, তবে আমরা তাঁহাদিগকে সমর্থন করিব।

যে প্রস্তাব বিনা ডিভিসনে পাশ হইয়াছে তাহা কেন এতদিন পর্য্যন্ত কার্য্যকরী করা হইল না তাহা বুঝিতে পারিতেছি না। প্রস্তাবটী কার্য্যে পরিণত না করায় প্রধান মন্ত্রীর অযোগ্যতা প্রকাশ পাইতেছে। ২৫শে আগষ্ট ১৯৩৮ইং তারিখে যে প্রস্তাব গৃহীত হইয়াছিল তাহা অগৌণে কার্য্যকরী করিবার জন্য আমি আমার প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিলাম। বিভিন্ন সম্প্রদায় হইতে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পরীক্ষা দ্বারা কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগের ব্যবস্থা করাও আমার প্রস্তাবের অন্যতম উদ্দেশ্য। প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পরীক্ষা ব্যতীত চাকুরীতে লোক নিযুক্ত করিলে চাকুরী ক্ষেত্রে অনেক অনাচার ও পক্ষপাতিত্বমূলক দুর্নীতি প্রবেশ করে; সাধারণ লোকের ছেলেরা চাকুরী পায় না। সবরেজিষ্ট্রার পদে লোক নিযুক্ত কালে আমরা দেখিয়াছি যে অনেক উপযুক্ত Graduate থাকা স্বত্বেও মন্ত্রীদের ও তাঁহাদের দলের মেম্বরগণের অযোগ্য Matriculate আত্মীয় স্বজনকে সবরেজেষ্টার পদে নিযুক্ত করা হইয়াছে। সরকারী চাকরীর শতকরা ৬০টী পদে মুসলমান, ২০টীতে তপছিলভুক্ত হিন্দু এবং বাকী ২০টীতে অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ের লোক নিযুক্ত করার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিতে হইলে ২৫ বছর সরকারী চাকুরীর পর বাধ্যতামূলক অবসর গ্রহণের যে প্রস্তাব ২৪শে আগষ্ট ১৯৩৮ইং তারিখে পাশ হইয়াছে তাহাও কার্য্যকরী করার একান্ত আবশ্যক। বাধ্যতামূলক অবসর গ্রহণের প্রস্তাব এবং আমার উত্থাপিত প্রস্তাব কার্য্যকরী করা হইলে বেকার সমস্যা ও সাম্প্রদায়িক সমস্যার সমাধান হইবে। এই সমস্ত বিষয়ের প্রতি লক্ষ্য করিয়া আমি আমার প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিতেছি। আমি মনে করি যে আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিয়া মুসলমান ও তপছিল ভুক্ত হিন্দু সম্প্রদায়ের বহু কালের ন্যায্য ও প্রাপ্য অধিকার আদায় করার সুযোগ দেওয়া হইবে।

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that the members of the Opposition have not changed their habit of finding fault with the Cabinet for every little act, good, bad and indifferent. I have listened with great interest to the speeches that have been delivered by

the various members of the Opposition to-day and I have not heard a single word of praise, a single word of appreciation, from the lips of any of them.

Coming to the speech of Dr. Banerjee I find, Sir, he is cross with the Labour Minister because he thinks that the Labour Minister has not done anything up till now to ameliorate the conditions of the labouring classes of Bengal. I ask Dr. Banerjee kindly to look into the state of affairs before the inauguration of the present Reforms. I ask him to read the proceedings of the old Council. I also ask him to go to facts and figures prior to the time when Mr. Suhrawardy took the portfolio of Labour and Commerce. Without knowing, without comparing the past with the present administration, it does not lie in the mouth of anyone to pass such scathing remarks simply because the Cabinet is not formed according to his own liking.

Coming to my friend Mr. Premhari Barma, who was once very anxious to get into the Cabinet but could not do so for various reasons, he thinks that whatever the Cabinet does, does with a motive, and in the allotment of services to the different communities not justice, not fairness but nepotism rules the Cabinet. He also attacks the Cabinet because he thinks that the Cabinet is not fair in giving nominations to the different communities. May I ask Mr. Premhari Barma and members of the scheduled castes just to compare their present lot with what they had a few years before? Is it not true that in the hands of the present Cabinet they are getting their due share not only in the services but also in representation on local bodies? Is it not just and fair to say that their legitimate claims have not been overlooked by the present Cabinet? My friend, Mr. Kshetra Nath Singha, will bear me out when I say that so far as the members of his class are concerned, in the district of Rangpur, they have got a fair representation on local bodies as well as in services under the Government. My friend ought to remember what their lot was in the days of the previous Government. I ask them to consider that instead of finding fault with the Cabinet they should just see what the present Cabinet has done for them. To meet the demand of the members of the scheduled castes, Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs. But there was scathing condemnation simply because there was no scheme. They ought to remember that the scheme was framed in accordance with the wishes of the members of the scheduled castes in the matter of spending this Rs. 5 lakhs.

Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Premhari Barma, is anxious to see a cut in the pay of officers by 25 per cent. But he has forgotten that it is not in the hands of the present Cabinet to ruthlessly cut down the pay according to the wishes of the members of this House.

Coming to the speech of my friend, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, who belongs to my own district, but has been brought up in an atmosphere

which, I should say, is quite different from mine, I cannot agree with his opinion in matters political. My friend charges the Cabinet with having attempted to suppress public opinion. He says that there were disturbances at Gaibandha and that it was the present Cabinet which fomented that trouble. May I tell my friend that if trouble was created at Gaibandha it was the creation of my friend and not of the members of the Cabinet or of the members of the Coalition party? It is his speeches which simply create trouble in the minds of the public. If anybody is responsible for creating public disturbances, it is he and not members of the Coalition party or of Government. My friend has referred to the Conference held at Gaibandha. According to him the District Magistrate should not have gone to Gaibandha and that he should not have been at the dâk bunglow but that it should have been kept reserved for the members of his party.

Then my friend has said that the paper *Azad* has been given a subsidy for the purpose of spreading communalism. If it is a fact that communalism is spread by newspapers, *Azad* is not alone to be blamed for that. There are other newspapers which have been spreading communalism and have been creating a gulf of difference between the Hindus and Muslims——(Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Grant them subsidies also.) Then, he has attacked my friend from Noakhali saying that he was disseminating communalism Personally, I am not conversant with the facts he was referring to, but I can defend him by saying that communalism is spread by anybody simply for nothing but because communalism breeds communalism. For the reason that the Muslims are trying to defend themselves from the atrocities of the members of the other community, they have been termed communal. My friend, Mr. Maqbul Hossain, has said, that he is finding fault with the Cabinet because the percentage question has not yet been finally decided by Government. If I remember aright, my friend has always sided with the Congress in all matters although he is anxious to give this percentage to the Muslim community. Possibly he has forgotten the difficulty that stands in the way of the Cabinet in giving effect to the resolution. It has been said that attempts are being made to come to a solution of the matter and I hope as soon as a solution will be arrived at, the final settlement will be decided by the Cabinet. My friends on the side opposite, especially my friend, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, takes delight in ridiculing the members of the Cabinet, in ridiculing the members belonging to the Muslim community, because he thinks that nationalism is his birth-right, nationalism is his sole monopoly; he is the only man who loves his country and his people and that no other man does so. Persons sitting in the Opposition benches have got the privilege of making irresponsible speeches which unfortunately members of the Coalition party cannot do. My friend, Dr. Sanyal, when he was delivering his speech the other day, was discussing the

appointment of a Muslim as a Professor in the Calcutta Medical College. According to him, efficiency is perhaps the monopoly of his own class of men of his own way of thinking. Let my friend note that the Muslims are equally efficient, if not more, than the members of his own community. I ask my friend not to think that whenever an appointment is given to a Muslim, it is given to an inefficient person due to nepotism——(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let them prove so by private practice.)

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the question of retrenchment.

Sir, from the point of view of economy the present budget is wholly disappointing, especially as our financial position, as revealed in the budget, is absolutely gloomy and hopeless. In the revised budget of the present year, we find that there is an opening balance of Rs. 1,36,00,000 and a closing balance of only Rs. 78 lakhs. In the budget of the next year, the budget which is now under the consideration of this House, there is a deficit to the extent of Rs. 87 lakhs, and even with a loan of one crore of rupees, the closing balance is only Rs. 85 lakhs. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in the last portion of his budget speech had said this: "We are approaching the end of our tether, and if we are to make any further progress in nation-building, we must be able to count upon revenues considerably exceeding the expected revenues of the coming year", then he goes on and says: "Further retrenchment can afford no effective relief". There, Sir, I do not agree with the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, and I have reasons to assert that further retrenchment would certainly afford considerable relief. I was looking into the White Paper on economy which was issued to members of this Assembly about this time last year, and I find that the Swan Committee, which was presided over by an experienced member of the Indian Civil Service, and of which you, Mr. Speaker, were a member, had recommended retrenchment to the extent of Rs. 1,75,00,000. We find also in that White Paper that the previous Government had effected retrenchment to the extent of only one crore and 4 lakhs of rupees, and the present Government to the extent of only 2 lakhs, so that retrenchment proposals covering a total of about Rs. 70 lakhs still remain to be considered. So far as the Department of General Administration is concerned, Sir, we find in that White Paper that the Swan Committee had recommended a saving of expenditure to the extent of Rs. 18 lakhs, of which, the previous Government had

effected retrenchment to the extent of only Rs. 1,23,000, and the present Government to the extent of only Rs. 1,53,000. After all, suggestions of retrenchment to the extent of Rs. 70 lakhs will have to be considered.

Now looking at the White Paper, which was issued only the other day, we find that the question of revision of the scales of pay has been under the consideration of Government ever since the present Ministry accepted office, and we also find at the end of two years that the proposal is still being considered. I do not find the Hon'ble the Finance Minister here, and I do not know to whom I should address my query.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, should not the Hon'ble the Finance Minister be present here under the circumstances? The speaker wants him to be present.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you are in earnest, I shall certainly send for him. But I hope the Hon'ble the Home Minister is taking notes of all this.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Oh yes, ample notes are being taken.

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: May I enquire, Sir, what is the period of gestation with the Government? It is a wonder that two years is not an adequate period of gestation. Two years have passed and still Government says that the proposal is under consideration. Then, again, what is the amount of that retrenchment which Government is still considering? It is Rs 14 lakhs only. The total expenditure was Rs. 227 lakhs, so that the proposed retrenchment comes to only 6 per cent. We should not forget, however, the extent of the retrenchment which was suggested by the Swan Committee. In some cases it is 10 per cent., 15 per cent.; and in some cases it is even 20 per cent. Then we find in the same White Paper that the maximum salary of officers in this province is higher than that of officers in Madras. The question of average salary does not arise, as, acting on the recommendations of the Swan Committee, Government had reduced the minimum salary, and when that is so, it does not stand to any reason why the maximum salary in Bengal should be higher than in the other Congress Governments. The table that we find in the White Paper shows that the maximum salary in Madras,—and that is the only province which has been compared in the White Paper—is in most cases—in only some cases of course it is equal—lower than that in Bengal. (A VOICE FROM THE COALITION PARTY: But what about the minimum?)

Then, again, looking at the White Paper, we find that the question of reduction in the number of Divisional Commissioners and the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police is still being considered, and nothing is said as to when that consideration will be finished.

Then, again, it has been stated that the question of revision of special pays and allowances was still being considered, and all that is said is that it will take time

It has also been stated that the contingent expenditure was being scrutinised. May I ask, Sir, when will all these considerations and scrutiny come to an end during the term of the present Ministry or after it?

Now, looking at the Red Book, we find that the expenditure under "General Administration" is rising by leaps and bounds. If you just refer to the figures in 1936-37, you will find a total expenditure under the head "General Administration" of Rs 1,34,97,000 If you leave out the election expenses, it comes to about Rs 1,26,00,000 As against that figure, we have in 1937-38, Rs 1,49,82,000, and in the Revised Budget for 1938-39 Rs 1,47,56,000, and next year it will go up to Rs 1,58,59,000, so that in the course of three years the figure has gone up by more than Rs 32 lakhs

Now, Sir, within the short space of time at my disposal, I can refer only to a few items under this head I find, Sir, that there is an increase of Rs 2 lakhs in the discretionary grant by heads of provinces, etc This expenditure, Sir, cannot be supported on principle There is no system in —

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit, but was allowed three minutes more to finish his speech.)

As I was saying, there is no system in the distribution of discretionary grants, which are made not on merits but on other extraneous considerations (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Congress Benches.)

Then, Sir, as regards the Rural Reconstruction Department, I heard a while ago the speech of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Rural Reconstruction, but I must express my definite conviction that it is a camouflage. Government by creating this department are bringing into existence a second Publicity Department for propaganda in the personal interest of the Ministers

Then as regards the "Azad", that is the third Publicity Department.

Then, Sir, we have got some other items. It appears that we require an additional Minister Is it because the present Ministers are overworked, or is it because Government want to hold out a bait before the different members of the Coalition Party? A bait, a cup of

tantalus to be used when necessary. Then, we find an increase in the expenditure on the Public Services Commission. What is the use of continuing that Commission if Government do not accept the suggestions or the recommendations of that Commission?

Before I conclude, I will only refer to one matter. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in the concluding portion of his budget speech has delivered a sermon on "wealth and obligation" and he wanted to assert that taxation was a social obligation. Before you ask others to do justice, you should do justice yourself (Cries of "Hear, hear"). I put this definite and categorical question to the members of the Treasury Benches—unfortunately there are not many present in the Chamber now, there are only two—is there no obligation on the part of our Ministers to reduce their salary?

(Here the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR: সভাপতি মহাশয়! আমি জেনারেল এডমিনিস্ট্রেসানএ যে cut motion এসেছে সেটা সমর্থন করতে উঠে বলছি, আমাদের বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের ব্যবস্থার সম্বন্ধে আমাকে প্রতিবাদ কোরে বলতে হোচ্ছে যে আজকে আমরা যে গুরুতর দায়িত্ব নিয়ে এই House এ এসেছি, তাঁহাদের সে দিকে একে বারেই লক্ষ্য নাই। কারণ যখনই House এর কাজ আরম্ভ হয় তখনই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী Bench খালি কোরে চোলে যান। আমি মনে করি সর্ব্ব সময় তাঁহাদের এখানে উপস্থিত থেকে সকল কথা সমস্ত আলোচনায় যোগ দেওয়া উচিত। আজকের General Administration বাজেট আলোচনা কোরতে গিয়ে দেখি কি?—প্রথমে আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের বাজেটটা খুললেই দেখা যায় যে আমাদের ১৩ কোটি আয় এবং ১৪ কোটি টাকা ব্যয়। এক কোটি টাকা আমাদের কম্ভ করিতে হবে তিনি বোলেই দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি এই যে ১৩ কোটি আয় আর ১৪ কোটি ব্যয়ে সেই যে ব্যয়ের ঠাকা কম্ভ কোরবেন সে টাকাটা তাঁরা কিভাবে আদায় কোরবেন? Tax দ্বারা আদায় কোরবেন এই বোধ হয় তাঁদের মতলব। তিনি আমাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী জনসাধারণেরই কর্ম্মচারী জনসাধারণই তাঁদের এখানে নিযুক্ত কোরেছে তাদের মঙ্গলের জন্য, ডালভাতের ব্যবস্থার জন্য। কিন্তু তাঁদের বাজেট দেখলেই প্রতীয়মান হয় ডালভাত ত শুকিয়েই গিয়েছে জনসাধারণের মুখের ভাত পর্য্যন্ত দিন দিন লুট হোয়ে যাচ্ছে। তাঁদের সে ডালভাতের ব্যবস্থা সম্বন্ধে শুধু এই দেখা যায় যে মন্ত্রীরা প্রত্যেকেই নিজ নিজ ক্ষুদ্র ক্ষুদ্র স্বার্থ নিয়েই আজ ব্যাস্ত। এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সেই সব ক্ষুদ্র ক্ষুদ্র স্বার্থ বজায় রাখতে গিয়ে তাঁরা আজ এত নিচে নেমেছেন—তাঁদের আদর্শ যে ইছলাম যাকে আমরা বলি ভগবানের বিশেষ দান সেই ইছলামকে তাঁদের সেই ক্ষুদ্র স্বার্থের ভিতর টেনে এনে "Islam in danger" "Islam in danger" বোলে চিৎকার কোরছেন। এই মুহূর্ত্তেই আমাদের আবুল হোসেন সাহেব বক্তৃতা দিতে গিয়ে—আমার বোধ হয় তাঁর বক্তৃতার ১২ আনাতেই—আমাদের শুনিয়েছেন "Islam in danger" আমি তাকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি Islam এতই ক্ষুদ্র জিনিষ যে এটাকে নিজেদের ক্ষুদ্র স্বার্থের ভিতর টেনে না আনলেই চলে না। Islam শুধু Coalition দের জন্যই নয়! Islam শুধু এই ১০ জন Cabinet Member এর জন্যই নয়।

সে হিন্দু মুসলমান প্রত্যেকের জন্যই, সে অনেক উপরের জিনিষ অনেক উপরেই উঠে রয়েছে কাজেই Islam in danger বোলে নিজেদের ক্ষুদ্র স্বার্থ বজায় রাখতে গেলে দেশের লোকের নিকট কৈফিয়ত দিতে হবে।

আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এই বাজেটটী আনতে গিয়ে আমাদের সামনে বেশ সুন্দর কথা বোলেছেন। তাঁহার speech এ দেখা যায় তিনি আমাদের বোলেছেন যে দেশ অতি শান্তভাবে আছে। "তাঁর একটা জিনিষ "I have assumed that war in Europe will not break out" এ অতি চমৎকার কথা। এই কে এক কোটি টাকা কল্প কোরছেন এরকম শান্তভাবের—তাঁর কথামত দেশ যদি থাকে তবেই ব্যবসা বাণিজ্যের ভিতর দিয়ে আমরা সেটা আদায় করতে পারব।

তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতা পরে বেশ বোঝা যায় যে তিনি নিজের হাতে বাজেট করেন নাই, কানে শুনে অপরের হাত দিয়ে বাজেটটা করা হোয়েছে। এই অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যখন দেশবন্ধুর পাশে বোসেছিলেন তখন তিনি জনসাধারণের ভাল কোরে ডালভাতের ব্যবস্থা কি উপায়ে হোতে পারে সেই scheme দেশবন্ধুর সঙ্গে আলোচনা কোরেছিলেন। আজকে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় মন্ত্রীত্বের চেয়ারে বোসে ওদের সকলকে রক্ষা করতে গিয়ে তাঁর আদত কথাই ভুলে গিয়ে জনসাধারণের দুঃখ মোচন করার কথা ভুলে গিয়ে অকারণে শুধু বাজেটে ব্যয় বাড়িয়ে যাচ্ছেন। আজ বেশী সময় নাই সভাপতি মহাশয় কখন বেল দিবেন জানি না। তাই আমি বেশী কথা না বোলে দুই একটি দৃষ্টান্ত দিব। তাতেই আপনারা বুঝতে পারবেন এরা কি রকম বৃথা কাজে আমাদের টাকা খরচ করেন। প্রথমই আমি একটা জিনিষ বলছি, এটা হোচ্ছে Irrigation Department এর কাজের সম্বন্ধে। দুঃখের বিষয় আমাদের Irrigation Department এর কাজের একটু কড়া সমালোচনা আমাকে করতে হোচ্ছে। এই Irrigation Department সম্বন্ধে দেখাচ্ছি এই যে এখানে কতকগুলি টাকা বাজে খরচ হোচ্ছে। এই বাজে খরচগুলি যদি বাঁচান যায় তাহলে আমরা জনসাধারণের উন্নতিকর কাজে সেই টাকাগুলো লাগাতে পারি, আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বাজেট speechএ বোলেছেন "The Irrigation Budget contains a provision of 2½ lakhs for the Waterways Board which it has not been found possible to constitute this year, but which it is hoped to constitute in the course of the coming year." এই যে ২½ লক্ষ টাকা বাজেটে বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন এই ২½ লক্ষ টাকা দুই বছরের মধ্যে খরচ করতে পারেন নাই। এর শুধু scheme করছেন scheme করতে করতে দেখা গেছে খালী scheme চলছে সব জায়গায়। অনেক জায়গা থেকেই scheme আসছে। আমি শুধু একটা জায়গার কথা বোলবো। কাকড়িতে একটা খাল কাটাবার জন্য একটা স্কীম চাওয়া হয়েছিল। সে scheme তাদের কাছে পাঠানো হয়েছে। সে স্কীম পাঠানোর পর থেকে কোন খবর পাওয়া যায় নাই যে সেটা কোথায় গেছে। ওদের ওখানে ৪টা Department আছে। প্রথম হলো Circle office তার পর হলো District office তার পর Divisional office সকলের উপর হচ্ছে— Chief Engineer's office. এখন কাজতো কোরবেন জেলা বোর্ড কিন্তু আরো যারা সব মাঝখানে আছে তারা কি কোরবে? (The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: যেমন A. I. C. C & B. P. C. C. এর পর District Congress কমিটিও আছে এ সেই রকম।) ঐ সব নীচের ও উপরের অফিসের গোলমালে আমাদের কোন বিষয়ের খবর পাওয়ার যে কি রকম মুস্কিল হয় তাহার দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ আমি কাকড়ি খালের খনন সম্বন্ধে একটী ভদ্রলোকের নিকট লিখিত Superintending Engineers' office এর চিঠিখানা উদ্ধৃত কোরছি তিনি লিখছেন 1938 এর 30th July তারিখে—

"Dear Sir, Reference: Your letter, dated the 17th July 1938.

A proposal of silt clearance of the Kakari Khal during the year 1939-40 has been sent up to the Chief Engineer, Bengal, Department of Communications and Works, Irrigation Branch. I have not heard anything from him as yet." উক্ত ভদ্রলোক তার পর আর একখানা চিঠি দিয়েছেন 31st of December, 1938, তারিখে কিন্তু তার আর কোন জবাব নাই। বোধ হয় স্কীমটা

Chief Engineer সাহেবের অফিসে অথবা মাননীয় মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরের দপ্তরখানায় গভীর নিদ্রায় নিমগ্ন তাই সে সম্বন্ধে উল্লিখিত দক্ষিন বিভাগের ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের অনর্থক সরকারী পয়সার অপব্যয় করিয়া ভদ্রলোকের চিঠিখানার উত্তর দেওয়ার আবশ্যক বোধ করেন, নাই। এই তো গেলো পূর্ত বিভাগের অবস্থা।

এখন আমি Co-operative Department র সম্বন্ধে একটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিয়েই আমার কথা শেষ কোরবো। এই Co-operative Department টা হচ্ছে গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটা চুরির Department চুরি ছাড়া এ Department এ আর কিছুই নাই। আপনারা কেউ ' বোলতে পারেন এই Co-operative বিভাগের দ্বারা কারো কোন উপকার হোয়েছে, ত্রিপুরা জিলার চোদ্দ গ্রাম থানার অন্তর্গত বাগৈ গ্রাম সরিপপুর যৌথ ঋণ দান সমিতি নামে একটী গ্রাম্য ব্যাঙ্কের সেক্রেটারী ৪০কানি জমি ব্যাঙ্কের নামে খরিদ কোরে নিজেই ভোগ কোরছেন। পঞ্চেরা সেণ্ট্রল ব্যাঙ্কের Inspector এর নিকট বলিলে তিনি উত্তর কোরলেন যে তাঁর ধোরবার ক্ষমতা নাই। সেক্রেটারীর নিকট গেলে তিনি বোল্লেন তাঁর ধোরবার ক্ষমতা নাই। অনারারি ডেপুটি চেয়ারম্যান বোলেছেন তাঁরও ধোরবার ক্ষমতা নাই। ডেপুটির গ্রেডের একজন কর্ম্মচারি যিনি Assistant Registrar রূপে বিরাজমাণ তার নিকট গেলে তিনিও বোলে দিলেন যে তাঁর ধরবার ও ক্ষমতা নাই। পঞ্চেরা উপায়ন্তর না দেখে ফৌজদারি কোর্টে মোকদ্দমা করে। তাতে গ্রাম্য ব্যাঙ্কের সেক্রেটারী ও একজন ডিরেক্টারের তলব হয়। তখন সমস্ত কর্ম্মচারীবর্গ প্রকাশ্যে এই মোকদ্দমার বিরুদ্ধে চেষ্টা কোরছে। সেই জন্য আমার বক্তব্য এই যে এই বিভাগটা Company's Registrar এর অন্তর্গত একটা বিভাগ কোরে দিয়ে ব্যয় সংক্ষেপ করা উচিত। এবং এই চুরির বিভাগটা তুলে দিলে জনসাধারণের অনেক টাকা বেঁচে যাবে। আমি পুনরায় বোলছি যে এ বাজেট অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের নিজের বাজেট নয়, এ তিনি কানে শুনে অন্যের হাত দিয়ে তৈরী করিয়েছেন। আমার শেষ কথা এই যে জনসাধারণের ভোটের জোরেই আপনারা এখানে আজ এসেছেন। দেখতে দেখতে তিন বছর কেটে গেল এর মধ্যে মনুষ্যত্ব যখন জেগে উঠবে জনসাধারণের ভিতর, তখন তারা আপনাদের কাছে কৈফিয়ৎ চাইবে। এবং সে কৈফিয়ৎ আপনাদের দিতে হবে। তাই আমাদের গরীব দেশের জনসাধারণের দিকে চেয়ে আপনারা খরচ কমাবেন।

Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to move the motion standing in my name but I should like to discuss it. My motion is about the amalgamation of the Bengal Civil Service and the Bengal Junior Civil Service.

The Bengal Civil Service and the Bengal Junior Civil Service are the two most important branches of our Provincial Public Services. The latter was created as far back as 1873 for outdoor works mainly. But the administrative necessity called its members more and more to higher spheres of duties and ever since the last Great War these officers are being vested with first class and other higher criminal powers. In the revenue side they are now working side by side with the Deputy Collectors. If the distribution list of a district is consulted, we find that the district administration, especially its revenue side, is run almost wholly by the Sub-Deputy Collectors. They are also appointed as temporary Subdivisional Officers. They are both gazetted officers of the same Provincial Service. Both are recruited by the same competitive examinations and they belong to the same class of society and have the same educational qualifications. After appointment they are to pass the same departmental examinations.

If there had been any distinction in their respective duties, it is now practically gone except where some arbitary restrictions have been set up by the artificial duty bar. The net result is that we are being burdened with two different classes of officers more or less for the same kind of duties. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things now that these two services should be amalgamated into one Provincial Executive Civil Service and that is now long overdue politically, socially and economically.

Sir, such a practical idea has been recognised by eminent officials like Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson-Bell, Sir George Rainy, Mr. C. W. A. W. Oldham and also by distinguished public men like Sir Devaprasad Sarvadhikari, Rai M. C. Mitra Bahadur, Babu Surendra Nath Roy, Sir Syed Mahamad Fakhruddin, Mr. Mazharul Huque, Mr. Bhupendra Nath Bose and others. The various Retrenchment Committees also shared the same view. The Donald Committee and the Swan Committee also recognised the importance of such amalgamation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a similar proposal is being seriously considered by the Bihar Government. But our Government in the face of big committee reports and authoritative official opinions are doing nothing in this direction. They actually recognise both as the members of the same service inasmuch as they do not pay any extra allowance to the Sub-Deputy Collectors when they perform Deputy Collectors' works. Is this not an injustice at the risk of spreading discontent amongst a tried and loyal set of officers? Sir, we want to economise and here is an avenue for economisation.

Formerly the Indian element of the Indian Civil Service was meagre and so the choicest men had to enter the Provincial Civil Service. Time has now changed and with the rapid Indianisation of the Indian Civil Service, the Provincial Services are not now as important and dignified as they were before. It is therefore neither economic nor necessary to retain two different Provincial Executive Services on two different scales of pay under the Indian Civil Service for discharging practically the same function. It is a question of few marks only that one man is a Deputy Collector and the other unfortunately a Sub-Deputy Collector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is argued that the Deputy Collectors are not required to perform the duties of Circle Officers and so these two services cannot be amalgamated. But, Sir, it is most unfortunate that they are not. Because this is most important work and is unanimously recognised as the most integral part of the District Administration. The province owes its first knowledge of self-government and co-operative movement to these Circle Officers whose achievements as Relief and Development Officers have always earned public admiration.

Sir, the creation of these Circle Officers is the gift of the Government of India Act and their works are really laudable. British Parliament has recognised it and everybody has recognised it. By depriving the Deputy Collectors of an opportunity to do the circle work as well, the Government have practically maimed them. They are placed in charge of subdivisions having had practically no experience——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED MUSTAFAWSAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of retrenchment has never been seriously tackled by this Government. Retrenchment is the only solution to a national reconstruction. Taxation has reached its furthest limit and it is impossible to impose any further taxation. The Assam Government has abolished the posts of Commissioners and this year the Finance Minister has provided no money under this head. If the Assam Government can abolish these posts, I find no reason why the Bengal Government should be silent over this much agitated question. These posts were created when the whole province was administered by one Lieutenant-Governor with few Secretaries. Now, when we have got eleven popular Ministers, a few dozens of Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under-Secretaries I do not feel that there is any necessity for retaining them. What are the functions that these Commissioners discharge? They are no more than conduit pipes from the District Magistrate to the Secretariat. A matter has to come from the District Magistrate to the Divisional Commissioner and from the Divisional Commissioner to the Assistant Secretary, then to the Secretary and from Secretary to the Minister. I do not see the fun of so many successive stages and the sooner the posts of Commissioners are abolished it is a relief to the finances of the country.

With regard to the Civil Secretariat, we find an increase of expenditure. This huge expenditure can be reduced if the Indian Civil Service is provincialized gradually. We have seen that the senior members of the Provincial Service have served in the Secretariat with ability, zeal and efficiency and I do not think there is any necessity of retaining it separately. There is enough scope for retrenchment in the Provincial Services. Both the junior and senior ranks of the Provincial Service should be amalgamated. Lastly, the number of Circle Officers can be reduced to half. The main duty of the Circle Officer is to check the accounts of the Union Board which can very conveniently be done by the Auditor of the Co-operative Department at a much lower cost. There are many other items in the budget which can be safely reduced.

Next I would deal with the question of transferring or posting officers without arranging substitutes. Mr. Speaker, in my district this

year many officers have been transferred without arranging substitutes and you will be surprised to hear that after the transfer of the Second Officer at Bagerhat no officer was posted at all till five months. There are two Circle Officers, one was posted.

The attitude of the officials towards the public should undergo a thorough change. The officials should realise that they are the servants of the public and not their masters. Their relation with the public should be a relation of cordiality and not that of hostility. Their motto in service should be service to humanity. I think a circular to this effect from the Hon'ble the Home Minister to all the officials is sufficient for the purpose.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 30,000 to raise a discussion on the grant to "Azad".

During the time of the general discussion of the budget, I enquired of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister if Maulana Akram Khan, the Editor of the "Azad", owes any money to any member of the Cabinet. He was discreetly silent; he simply informed the House that Maulana Akram Khan did not approach the Government for any money. He spoke of the front door but did not speak of the back door. Rumour runs that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister did not like to insert the name of the "Azad" specifically in the budget, but he was pressed hard to put the name lest the "Star of India", "Amrita Bazar" and other pro-Government papers should insist for a share in the allotment of Rs. 30,000.

Now, the main question is what is the policy of Government regarding the grant of money to the newspapers. We don't know of any such policy. Then why the amount should be given to the "Azad" which is equivalent to the salary of a Minister of the Bengal Government? The Hon'ble the Finance Minister says that because it has a large circulation. If circulation was the basis for this grant, then why other papers should not get it having a larger circulation?

Then it is presumed there must be something other than circulation. What is that thing? The Hon'ble the Finance Minister is silent about this, but Maulana Akram Khan says he did not press for this amount. It is curious even without the request of the veteran Maulana, Government should grant him such a large sum.

The Maulana began his life as an Editor of the "Muhammad", a Wahabi Paper—he waged war against the "Hanafi"—a paper supporting the creed of Imam Abu Hanifa. He was never a friend of Sunni

Section of Mussalmans and he will never be. But to-day he appears to be the only friend and trustee of the Muslims in Bengal. But may we know whether the Maulana pays occasional visits to Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Ráy, the Bose Brothers and other stalwarts of the Congress and, if so, why? Maulana Akram Khan is neither for Muslims nor for Hindus nor for anybody else. He is for himself. And for that he can sell his conscience in any way he likes. Sometimes he is a Prajabandhu, sometimes a Zemindarbandhu, and sometimes he is a Hindubandhu, as it suits his purpose. The Premier of Bengal characterises this paper as a genuine newspaper, but this genuine newspaper never publishes any contradiction sent for publication. If the policy of Government is to screen their misdeeds, then they are right to grant this sum. If the policy of the Government is to give publicity of their good deeds, this bribe is absolutely unnecessary. Every genuine newspaper will do so even without money. Besides this, there is a Publicity Department equipped with two papers and other sundry publications under the able guidance of Mr. Altaf Hossain, the Director of Public Information.

Sir, there was no sectional agitation in this country, but through the columns of the "Azad" there were articles which were responsible for severe riots in the province, e.g., at Mymensingh, Tippera, Noakhali, Chittagong, Bhola, and other places. The Government is responsible for the peace and tranquillity of the country, but the "Azad" does not want peace and the Bengal Government has given it a free licence to preach "Muslim League". The "Azad" is the spiritual leader of the Bengal Cabinet with the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy as the Military Secretary. It may be a gain for the "Azad" to preach the creed of Muslim League and thereby gain something, but it should not be the policy of the Government. Under the circumstances the Government will be well advised not to bestow unmerited favour to the "Azad", while the editor himself does not want it seriously as he has said.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the political party propaganda through District and Subdivisional Officers.

Sir, if political party propaganda is allowed to be carried on by Government officers, I have nothing to say. But if it is not allowed, then I have got the right to say something on this subject. Political propaganda work is being done directly or indirectly by Government officers. Whenever the question of nomination of members on Debt Settlement Boards or on Union Boards comes up, there comes in

political propaganda work. Whether the man who proposed to be nominated is a member of the League Party or not, whether he is fully qualified or not, whether he has influence or not, whether he is able to carry on work or not—these are not at all considered,—but the party from which he hails is the only thing considered. I know what is being done by some of the officers in Jessore district. If you do not belong to the Ministerial Party, it is not possible for the officers to nominate you to any of the institutions I have just referred to. In the circumstances, it is an indication that you must accept the creed of the League Party, otherwise you will have no chance to be appointed to any such board or to take part in any work that may be of some service to the people.

Another matter is that some of the officers of Jessore district have been carrying on rank communalism in some of the subdivisions in the name of propaganda. They are carrying on a crusade against Muslim presidents and members of certain boards in many ways, and it has, I think, been brought to the notice of one or more of the Ministers or members of the Cabinet by some persons of Jessore. But they have been told in reply that these officers have been doing political propaganda work on behalf of the Ministry. I ask the honourable members of the Cabinet, especially the Muslim members, whether they are protecting Muslim interest in this way, or whether they have allowed some of the communal Hindu officers to massacre the Muslim cause as well as the public spirited and respectable Muslims. Whether the Government officers have been directed by the present Cabinet to oppress or suppress persons who do not belong to their party, I do not know. But if it is a fact, some of the officers expressed that they have been indicated by the Government. What I want, however, is that this should be clearly stated. Whenever there is a difference of opinion, they raise the cry of "Islam in danger" and for the protection of Muslim interest they pose themselves as the guardians of the Muslim community. But I ask whether any person who holds a different opinion should be persecuted as they have been doing. I know that some of the presidents have been directed to do this or that with the threat that if they fail to do so, they will be harassed and put to trouble. To quote one instance, a president who was prosecuted by some Subdivisional Officer in the Jessore district was subsequently acquitted. He was put to this trouble because he refused to start a minor school in a village which was predominantly Hindu, but started a junior madrasah in his own village and was ultimately prosecuted at the instigation of some of the Hindu officers. At another place in the district of Jessore the Subdivisional Officer had openly taken part in political propaganda work and arranged a political party meeting and he was congratulated by the League organisers for having enough moral courage to do this sort of political propaganda.

As I was saying, Sir, Government officers carry on propaganda on behalf of the League. At least this is our experience in Jessore. A Secretary of a Union Relief Committee, i.e., a President, Union Board, misappropriated some money. The matter was reported by the Secretary, Subdivisional Committee, to the Subdivisional Officer. The latter went to his house and took meal there and arranged for a League meeting there with the help of the President, Union Board, and because he arranged a League meeting he was excused. When a report was made against the President, he was put into the *hajat* but afterwards no action was taken against him. It is reported that the Subdivisional Officer, Chandpur, Tippera, the Circle Officer and the thana officer of Hajiganj are carrying on political party propaganda.

(At this stage the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There are still four members who want to speak to-day, and I propose to give them five minutes each, because there is likely to be a great rush of speakers to-morrow.

The following four members want to speak to-day, viz., Mr. Puspajit Barma, Mr. Patiram Roy, Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali and Mr. Golam Sarwar Hosaini. Of them Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali will speak first, then Mr. Puspajit Barma, then Mr. Patiram Roy and then Mr. Golam Sarwar Hosaini if there is still any time.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, without moving the cut motion that stands in my name, I rise to make some observations regarding the heavy cost of administration of this province and the immediate need for effecting drastic retrenchment under this head.

Sir, the other day a memorandum was circulated to us showing a review of economy measures adopted by, or under the examination of, Government. But a careful perusal of this memorandum convinces us that steps along the lines desired by us are not being taken. The memorandum states that revision of pay of officers was made in 1934 and that a second revision is under the contemplation of Government, which, when accepted, will ensure an ultimate saving of Rs. 14 lakhs. This is as it should be. But what pains us, Sir, and what appears to be iniquitous is that reductions are being made only in the case of officers drawing moderate scales of salaries and that no attempt is being made by Government to move competent authority for the reduction of the scales of pay of officers in receipt of princely salaries—scales which are not in conformity with the financial resources of our Exchequer. I do not like to dwell on this question at length now, as I shall have ample opportunity of doing so when moving my resolution on this subject later.

Then, Sir, we believe that there are several posts, carrying high emoluments, which may be easily abolished, or their number reduced. I refer to posts like that of Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. Furthermore, there are posts which might be easily amalgamated. Posts like that of the Director of Public Instruction and of the Secretary of the Education Department, which exercise a sort of dual control over the Education Department, can easily be merged into one, and one of the two done away with. I might cite another example. There is nothing to prevent the amalgamation of the posts of the Inspector-General of Registration and the Commissioner of Excise and Salt. Various other posts of a similar nature can, without affecting the efficiency of the administration, be either abolished, amalgamated, or reduced in number.

Sir, the Swan Committee, of which you were a member, made an exhaustive inquiry into the costs of administration and submitted a detailed report incorporating several recommendations. But it now transpires that Government are unable to agree to most of them on principle or on matters of policy. It is true that Government have recently made some retrenchment and saved some money. But that has been done in Government's own way—under the direction of an official who cannot be so very sympathetic to this question, as he has not to bear the brunt of taxation in order to meet the costs of our administration. With a view, therefore, to a careful and dispassionate survey of the whole question and in order to analyse the view-point of the Government in their inability to accept the suggestions of the Swan Committee *in toto*, I venture to suggest the immediate formation of a Committee consisting of both officials and non-officials to go through the report of the Swan Committee and suggest how far, and up to what extent, the recommendations of the said Committee could be given effect to. Further, it should be competent for the Committee to suggest any fresh proposal for reduction in the top-heavy costs of our administration.

Sir, I suggest this addendum in view of the fact that, with the advent of the present Reforms, there have sprung up water-tight departments of multifarious nature in the Secretariat by which the volume of work in each department has been distributed, with the result that more officers had to be drafted in, though each of them has very little work to do.

Sir, my proposal, therefore, is very fair and reasonable. There should be no objection on the part of Government to accede to this, for it would be a gesture, which the non-official element, especially the party behind the Government, would greatly appreciate, and which at the same time would enhance the prestige of Government.

Sir, when the nation-building departments under Government are starved for want of funds and when we are faced with a proposal for

further taxation, it is high time that efforts should seriously be made to reduce, as far as practicable, the heavy administrative charges, so that adequate funds might be released for the material advancement of the province and for the betterment of the condition of the masses.

Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by Mr. Premhari Barma and in this connection I shall speak about adequate representation of the scheduled castes in local bodies particularly in union boards.

Sir, the Government of India Act, 1935, gave us Provincial Autonomy with two Legislatures, the two Legislatures representing the people of different communities of Bengal by separate electorate and jont electorate with reservation of seats for the scheduled castes.

But alas, Sir, we find no change of the electoral system in local bodies. These local bodies discuss local matters that come within their respective jurisdictions. Sir, we believe that local interest and local needs may be best served by the local bodies. These local bodies are representative in character. Now, Sir, these local bodies are composed of elected and nominated members. Now-a-days, the District Boards are going to have the joint electorate system with reservation of seats for the minority community of the district concerned according to the basis of the population strength.

Sir, we are thankful to the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, the then Minister for Local Self-Government. The present Government are applying this system of election in the District Boards as the Local Boards are gradually going to be abolished.

Sir, the system of joint electorate with reservation of seats for the minority community will bring immense good to the people of the district concerned. Moreover, it will, we believe, smooth the spirit of communalism between the two communities—the Muhammadans and the Hindus—in general. The vital interests of the communities concerned will also be best served.

Sir, I shall now come to union boards—the home of village politics. I am afraid, Sir, that sometimes the members of the union boards use the boards without the least hesitation for their own interest neglecting the interest of the minority community.

Sir, the joint electorate system makes it impossible for members belonging to the minority community to be elected, and if this system of election continues in the union boards, the interests of the minority community will certainly be overlooked.

Sir, we earnestly request the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin to introduce the system of joint electorate with reservation of seats for the minority community in the union boards without delay.

Sir, advocates of democracy may come forward with different views, but democracy is not free from its drawbacks. Moreover, we find that democracy has failed even in some European States.

Sir, I shall now come to the system of nomination which is both beneficial and disgusting to the nominating authority. In the matter of nomination, I shall be more partial to my own communities—the Scheduled Castes—who are nowadays trying their best for political power, educational advancement and economic prosperity.

Sir, may I not hope that nominations should be made on the local bodies, in all fairness and justice, according to the numerical strength of the population of the different communities—I mean, the political division of the communities—the Muhammadans, the Scheduled Castes and the general Hindus, so that the interests of the Scheduled Castes may be best served.

Sir, now I shall come to my own district. The representation of the Scheduled Castes on the Union Boards in the district of Rangpur is hopelessly inadequate in consideration of their population strength. It is due to the joint electorate system and its brother system—the nomination.

Sir, nomination was given without any fairness or sense of justice and equity. The nominating authority disregarded the population strength and the legitimate claims of the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, we believe, the system of joint electorate with reservation of seats for the minority community and nomination according to the population strength will best serve the interests of the Scheduled Castes. May we not hope that the present Cabinet with its Premier, the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq, the protector of the interests of the Scheduled Castes, will take this matter into his consideration with right earnest? Sir, I hope, he will.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the Scheduled Castes and backward communities.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, নব শাসনতন্ত্র প্রবর্ত্তনের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাংলার বুকে যে সকল সমস্যার উদ্ভব হোয়েছে তার মধ্যে Scheduled Castes সমস্যা অন্যতম। আমার এখনকার বাননীয় বন্ধু সচিব মহোদয় আর একটা জাতের উল্লেখ কোরেছেন। সেটা হোচ্ছে Backward Community. এখন তিনি এই Backward Community কে কিছু সাহায্য করবেন এবং সহানুভূতি দেখাবেন বোলে আশা দিয়েছেন। শাসনতন্ত্র প্রবর্ত্তিত হবার আগে বাংলার হিন্দু জাতির, শুধু বাংলার নয়, সমস্ত ভারতের হিন্দু জাতির মধ্যে কতকগুলি জাতির পিছা এবং রাজনৈতিক অধিকারের পশ্চাতপদ অবস্থা দেখে তাদের পিছা এবং রাজনৈতিক অধিকার বিশেষ ভাবে দেবার জন্য একটা তালিকা প্রস্তুত করা হোয়েছিল। আবার সেই তালিকা প্রস্তুতের পূর্ব্বে ১১৮টা জাতিকে তপশিল ভুক্ত করে

তাহাদিগকে সুবিধা দেওয়া হোয়েছিল যে তারা এই তালিকা ভুক্ত থাকতে চান কি না। যখন জিজ্ঞাসা করা হোয়েছিল তখন তালিকা ভুক্তদের মধ্যে তপশীল সংস্কারsocial and political backwardness থাকার দরুণ কতকগুলি জাতি তপশিল ভুক্ত জাতি থাকতে রাজি হয় নাই। তারা এক যোগে তপশিল ভুক্ত জাতি থেকে বেরিয়ে গিয়েছেন। আজ পুনরায় তাদের মধ্যে কতকগুলি জাতি বিশেষ সুবিধা নেবার জন্য একটা নূতন নাম (Backward class) নিয়ে হাজির হোচ্ছে। আমাদের মাননীয় অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় একটা নূতন ভাগে তাদের ফেলতে যাচ্ছেন। এক অখণ্ড হিন্দু জাতিকে এই নব শাসনতন্ত্রে যে ভাবে ভাগ করা হোয়েছে সেই ভাগ খুব কম নয়। তার উপর কেন জানিনা আবার একটা ভাগের সৃষ্টি আজ করতে যাওয়া হোচ্ছে। যারা এই সমাজের আভিজাত্য রক্ষার দরুণ তপশিল ভুক্ত থাকতে রাজি হয় নাই, আজ তাঁরা গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছ থেকে বিশেষ সুবিধা নেবার জন্য "অনুন্নত" এই হীনতা স্বীকার কোরতে চাইছেন কেন? এই Scheduled Castes list যখন তৈরী হোয়েছিল সেই list এ যে সমস্ত জাতীর নাম আছে তার পরেও ১৯০৬ সালে গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে শিক্ষা বিভাগের ষ্টাইপেণ্ড দেওয়া হোয়েছে তাতে Education Department ১৯০৬ সালের ২৬শে May তারিখে ৩নং circular দ্বারা কতকগুলি জাতিকে Backward শ্রেণীভুক্ত করা হইয়াছিল। এর মধ্যে দেখা যায় তপশিল ভুক্ত যে সমস্ত জাতি তাদের নাম দেওয়া হোয়েছে। পুনরায় শিক্ষা বিভাগ থেকে যে Backward Community করা হয়েছিল এবং নূতন শাসনতন্ত্রে যে তপশিল ভুক্ত জাতি করা হোয়েছে তা ছাড়াও কিসের উপর নির্ভর কোরে Backward Community করা হোচ্ছে এবং তাদের কিছু সুবিধা দেওয়া হবে বোলে যে একটা আশা দিচ্ছেন, আমরা বুঝতে পারি না। শিক্ষা দীক্ষা রাজনীতিতে পশ্চাতপদ অবস্থা হইতে অগ্রসর করবার জন্য তাদের কি প্রকার উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট হোতে যে সব সুবিধা দেওয়া হবে তা যদি Scheduled Castes ও Backward Community দুই ভাগকে দেয়া হয়, তাহলে— Sir (আর এক মিনিট) যদি caste হিন্দুর মধ্য থেকে তাদের সেই সুবিধা দেওয়া হয়, তা থেকে এই তপশিল ভুক্ত জাতির মধ্যে যারা আছে তাদের কপালে কলঙ্ক কালিমা মেখে দেবার উদ্দেশ্য কি? তা হোলেই বোলতে চাই তাদের Caste হিন্দুর মধ্যে এনে সুবিধা দেওয়া হউক। অন্যথা ঐ সমস্ত জাতি যারা Backward নাম নিতে চাচ্ছে তাহাদিগকে Scheduled করা হউক। এতদ্ব্যতীত কি উপায়ে একটী Backward Community করা যায় তাহা আমাদের বুদ্ধির অগম্য।

Khan Sahib Maulvi S. ABDUR RAUF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great pity that we, members of this Legislature, whenever rise to discuss a matter on the floor of this House, we forget ourselves and think that our discussion is not complete and impressive unless we can abuse the Cabinet and others who do not follow or share our views. In this way, we are carried away by our own emotions and by the encouragement of our respective supporters and we forget for the time being that we have taken our stand to discuss a particular matter and to give practical suggestions. I am a practical man and I shall give some practical suggestions with regard to a particular matter, instead of spending the time in abuses and counter-abuses.

As a representative of the rural Muhammadan constituency of the district of Howrah within Burdwan Division in the Western Bengal I take this opportunity to say a very few words with regard to the election of the local bodies, viz., Local Board, District Board, Municipalities and the Union Board. When I hear that some of my friends want to do away with nomination from the local bodies and also want to do away with the system of reservation of seats for the minority community in the local bodies, my heart trembles. We,

Muhammadans, living in Western Bengal specially in Burdwan Division are in a hopeless minority and consequently the Muhammadan voters are very limited. During the time when there was no reservation of seats for the Muhammadans, in our division not a single Muhammadan could come in the local bodies by contesting the seats in these bodies in election. It is only by nomination that the Muhammadans used to get one or two seats in these bodies at that time. The Muhammadans of Burdwan Division could not even get the requisite number of seats by nomination according to their population and consequently the Muhammadan interest could not be safeguarded in any way at that time. They had to depend entirely on the mercy of the majority community.

Then, Sir, now that the system of reservation of seats with joint electorate has been introduced the Muhammadans are now getting some seats according to their population basis. But as the electorate is now a joint electorate and as the majority community is now commanding greater number of votes the real Muhammadan candidate who is a real representative of the community cannot get himself elected, though he gets the largest number of Muslim votes. In order that the minority Muhammadan community of the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions may get their proper representatives, I request that the Government will introduce separate electorate for the minority community in these divisions as has been proposed for the Calcutta Corporation. I also request that the Government will also keep the nomination system in these local bodies, so that the interest of the minority community may be safeguarded properly. If this system is not followed, then I think the Hindus in Eastern Bengal and the Muhammadans in Western Bengal will suffer greatly. So I request that the Government will very soon introduce Amendment Bills for Local Self-Government Act and the Bengal Municipal Act on the basis of the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Bill so that the interest of the minority community both Muslim and non-Muslim may be safeguarded.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 17th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 17th March, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 218 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Recruitments in the Industries Department.

*208. **Mr. ABDUR RASHID MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last two years ending on the 31st December, 1938, how many recruitments have been made in the Industries Department?

(*b*) How many of them are Muslims?

(*c*) How many Hindus?

(*d*) What are their qualifications?

(*e*) How many candidates applied for each of these posts?

(*f*) How many of them have been appointed?

(*g*) The districts to which they belong?

(*h*) What is the scale of pay of these officers appointed?

(*i*) Whether the posts were advertised?

(*j*) If not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): The hon'ble member is referred to the statements furnished in the replies to unstarred question No. 46 of the 6th March, 1939, asked by Mr. Fas'ur Rahman (Mymensingh) and unstarred question No. 59 of the 13th March, 1939, asked by Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan, copies of which have again been laid on the library table, in which almost all the information wanted by him was given. If after considering those statements the hon'ble member still requires further information in

regard to any particular appointment or class of appointments, I shall be glad to supply the same on demand.

Absorption of ex-detenus in Industries Department.

*208. **Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE RAY CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Special) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that about 20 ex-detenus (including Supervisors, Inspectors and menials) were appointed in the Umbrella Training Camp at Dum-Dum in April, 1936, with prospect of being confirmed;

(*ii*) that they were discharged on 31st May, 1938, with the assurance that they would be absorbed in the Department of Industries;

(*iii*) that most of them are going to be age-barred very soon; and

(*iv*) that excepting one or two all of them are still unemployed?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate to take in all or any of them in the Department of Industries in the near future?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): The hon'ble member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. 206 of the 16th March, 1939, asked by Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to question (*a*) (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability to condone the age bar of these youths if they are faced with any such situation when they get a chance in Government service?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This is a hypothetical question, Sir, if I may submit.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: My question has not been replied by the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is hypothetical.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: It does not give any definite reply. In his reply he has made a definite statement that if they are not given a chance at the present moment Government will consider the desirability of providing them in the Department of Industries at any future time if occasion arises. If by that time the young men may be barred by age limit, I want to get an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister if any such chance comes whether the Hon'ble

Minister will consider their cases favourably at that time or will refuse them on the plea that their age has now increased and therefore they won't be provided.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose has always been in the habit of arguing——

A voice: Withdraw.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: With great pleasure. Supposing a man reaches the age of 60 and then he claims that Government have given a promise when a suitable vacancy occurs his overage would be condoned.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he thinks that the young men will have to wait till they reach 60 years of age?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is a possibility. It is not beyond the possibility.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an assurance that he will condone the age bar until the age of 35 and not 60—I am not going so far?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No assurance can be given at the present time, but the question will be considered when the situation arises in a favourable light.

Opening up of new bridges on the Sara-Serajganj Railway Line.

***210. Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) of the breach caused by the last flood between Mooladuly and Chatmohar railway stations on the Sara-Serajganj Railway line of the Eastern Bengal Railway section; and

(*ii*) that there are inadequate number of openings in the line between Mooladuly and Salop stations, for free flow of flood water?

(*b*) Have the Government examined through their experts the question of number of passages for free flush of flood water in the Sara-Serajganj line to mitigate the floods occurring in the Northern Bengal as well as in the districts on either side of the river Padma?

(*c*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of approaching the Railway authority for the construction of adequate number of bridges on the line for free passing of flood water?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The question is being investigated.

(*b*) An examination by experts is now proceeding.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long ago these experts were appointed to investigate the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I believe after the last flood.

Allowance to Jurors.

*211. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the jurors who are called or summoned to attend a sessions case if not required to sit, are not allowed the daily allowances for the days they are to halt at the district headquarters?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will kindly change the rule and allow the jurors daily allowance for the days they are to halt in the town?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Jurors and assessors are entitled to allowance for the first day of their attendance in courts.

(*b*) Allowances are paid as in Government Notification No. 4666J., dated the 9th June, 1932.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The second sentence in reply (*b*) has not been read.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I did not like to read the portion of the answer in question. The answers were prepared while I was seriously ill and I did not look

into the remaining portion and now I don't think that the portion of the answer in question is necessary.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that jurors are not allowed daily allowance if they are not allowed to sit?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that if they are not allowed to draw the daily allowance they have to suffer some loss? And for that reason important gentlemen do not attend?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to take any steps for removing this defect.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a request for action.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action have Government taken on the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister in the previous session in connexion with the same question put by me that the matter will be carefully enquired into?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: It is being enquired into even now. The question is a question of funds. This House is practically the custodian of all the funds of Government and can dispose of the funds in any way it likes. If it approves I shall be very glad to distribute the funds as it likes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any scheme has been prepared by his department and if any actual sum of money has been requisitioned by his department from the Finance Department?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot ask the latter portion of your question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any actual scheme has been drawn up by his department?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The scheme is there but it requires finance.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if jurors who are summoned to attend are allowed travelling allowance for attending the court?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes, but not those who attend the court from within 5 miles.

Headquarters of the Noakhali district.

***212. Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to maintain the headquarter station of the Noakhali district in its present site?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a *char* has been formed to the south of the town to arrest further erosion of the town?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of protecting the northern side of the town by constructing a *bundh* over the Noakhali *khal*?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes. But the formation of the *char* does not constitute any guarantee as regards protection of the town from erosion as a similar *char* was formed before and was subsequently washed away

(*c*) No.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the place to which the Government propose to shift the headquarters of Noakhali district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The matter is still under consideration.

Gratuitous relief and agricultural loan in Rajshahi.

***213. Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, thana by thana, separately in the Rajshahi district the amount distributed to the agriculturists of the area affected by the last flood by way of—

(*i*) gratuitous relief; and

(*ii*) agricultural loan?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that all the agriculturists especially those of the Naogaon subdivision have not got the loans advanced to meet their needs?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, are Government considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter and to make further advances?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA: May I remind the Hon'ble Minister that a certain member of this House made a further complaint to him while he was at Darjeeling regarding this sort of thing, when he asked for a writtten note and that note was supplied to him?

Mr. SPEAKER: How is your question relevant?

Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA: With reference to question 213(*b*), the Hon'ble Minister has said, No. But when the oral complaint was made and a note was handed over to him, he promised to look into the matter.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Steps were taken and since then further grants have been made.

Silting up of the Rupnarain.

*214. **Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the river Rupnarain in the districts of Howrah, Hooghly and Midnapore is getting silted up year after year; and

(*ii*) that the neighbouring villages are subjected to frequent floods?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the villagers?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) The question of reviving the river has already engaged my attention and the departmental officers have been directed to prepare a scheme after investigation.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to answer (*ii*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there were floods during each of the last 6 years in some parts of these places?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It may be that the marginal embankments which are responsible for holding up the river water gave way, and there might have been floods here and there.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there will be a local enquiry?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I do not know how any enquiry to revive a river can be undertaken in the office room.

Electrical sections of Public Works Department and "Work Establishment" Department.

*215. **Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a section called Electrical Department under the Communications and Works Department?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the officers under the head "Work Establishment" are not given the privileges which the ordinary Government servants are entitled to, such as conditions of service, leave rules, etc.?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the workers formed a registered Union and sent a memorandum to the Hon'ble Minister himself for the redress of their grievances without any effect?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons for rejecting their prayer?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking immediate steps to redress their grievances?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) I presume that the hon'ble member is thinking of the Electrical Circle.

(*b*) Members of the work-charged establishment in the Electrical and other Circles are temporary employees whose pay is debited to the work on which they are employed.

(*c*) to (*e*) A memorandum submitted by the "Government Building Electrical Workers' Union" praying for improved conditions of employment is under consideration.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Ananda Prasad, Hari Mistri and Loharu have been working for more than 25 years but still are on a temporary basis?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot mention the names.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, Sir, the names are very relevant here. Besides, there is no observation against them. These men had been taken temporarily, and the honourable member wants to know whether they were on a temporary basis for the last 25 years?

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Hon'ble Minister has not denied that. If he had denied, I could understand the relevancy of the question.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: All right, Sir, I shall put the question without mentioning the names.

Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the workers who have been employed for more than 25 years are still considered to be temporary?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It is difficult for me to give exactly the number of years, but I admit that there are some who have put in a good many number of years of service.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any gratuity has been given to the persons who have completed 25 years of service in view of the assurance given by him in February last in reply to a question of Maulvi Abdul Hakim?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, that question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of treating as permanent such employees who have been continuously engaged for more than 10 years?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As I have already stated, the question is under consideration but the existing rules are great handicaps to come to any decision.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any unpaid apprentices in this department from whom absolutely gratis service is taken?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I want notice.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a deputation of the Union referred to has been refused by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what grounds he refused to accept a deputation of this Union?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Because the Union was not a recognised one.

Absorption of discharged men of the Industrial Training Camps in departments of Government.

***216. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Special) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) that 20 young men were appointed by the Industries Department in the Industrial Training Camp for Detenus at Dum-Dum during April, 1936;

(*ii*) that they were given to understand that their services would be confirmed in that department;

(*iii*) that all of them were given discharge notice on the 31st May, 1938;

(*iv*) that after their discharge they were given assurance of re-employment at an early date by the Industries Department;

(*v*) that no action has yet been taken by that department to that effect;

(*vi*) that some of them had chance of employment elsewhere but they could not avail themselves of the opportunity because of the prospect of being confirmed in their respective posts; and

(*vii*) that most of them are going to be age-barred for Government service very soon?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of absorbing these men in the Industries Department or in some other departments of Government?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The hon'ble member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. 206 of the 16th March, 1939, asked by Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to question (*b*), since no question of confirmation can arise, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of financing these youths in the spirit of the Bengal State Aid to Industries Act?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I beg to draw your attention to the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister yesterday where the Hon'ble Minister said that they were employed in posts which were temporary and no question of confirmation could therefore arise. On the strength of that argument I would like to ask whether the Hon'ble Minister can give any financial help.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that question can arise in this connection.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the question of employing these men in the Government Commercial Museum were considered?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If they have applied, I am sure their applications must have been considered.

Allowances to Jurors.

*217. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the jurors are not paid daily allowances for the first and last days of their work?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate payment to the jurors first and last days' daily allowances and in addition to travelling allowance half of daily allowance if they reach the town one day earlier and leave the town on day next to the closing day?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Allowances are paid as in Government Notification No. 4666J., dated the 9th June, 1932.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons which influence the Hon'ble Minister to come to the decision to take no action?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I have not read that portion of the answer.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a great discontent among the jurors on account of a very paltry sum of rupees being given as their daily allowance?

Mr. SPEAKER: That will be discussed under the appropriate budget demand.

Tangi-Tangail Railway Project.

*218. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state how does the proposal for a railway line between Tangi and Tangail stand?

(*b*) Has the Health Committee submitted their report on the project?

(*c*) If so, what is the report?

(*d*) If no report has been submitted, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long will they take to submit the report?

(*e*) When was the matter referred to them?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: A Committee was appointed by Government in September, 1934, to investigate the measures necessary to safeguard public health and sanitation in the neighbourhood of three possible routes of the projected Tangi-Tangail Railway. In August, 1938, the Committee submitted their final report which is now under the examination of Government in the Public Health Department.

George VI Bridge over the Meghna on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

*219. **Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that the George VI Bridge over the Maghna on Assam-Bengal Railway is causing obstruction to the free passage of water down the river?

(*b*) Did the Government have an inquiry made by their experts to ascertain whether the bridge will be a cause for high floods annually in areas upwards the river?

(*c*) If no such enquiry has been made, do the Government propose an inquiry to be made now?

(*d*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government propose to move the Railway authorities for opening up more water passages on the railway line both up and down the bridge?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that quantity of stones are being thrown into the bed in the river Meghna in place about one mile in length to the north of the bridge for protection of the bridge?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, do the Government propose taking to arrest the silting up of the river in time?

(*g*) Do the Government propose to take any step for preventing devastation of the area in Meghna and Ghorantra slopes?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) I have not received any information or complaint to this effect.

(*b*) Before the bridge was constructed, Government were satisfied after enquiries through a committee appointed for the purpose, that the headways and waterways proposed by the Railway authorities for the bridge were adequate.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*e*) I am informed that the banks are being protected by putting stones into the river 300 running feet to the north and 400 running feet to the south of the bridge.

(*f*) I propose to take expert advice in the matter.

(*g*) The question of taking any action will depend on the advice which I get from the experts.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the committee referred to in answer (*b*) is official or non-official, and the names of the members thereof?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am afraid that it is impossible to give the names of the members offhand.

Admission in the Dacca Secondary Agricultural School.

*220. **Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the current year—

(*a*) the number of students admitted into the Dacca Secondary Agricultural School;

(*b*) how many of them are Muhammadans; and

(*c*) how many of them have been taken from each Division of the province?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) 25 including 3 teachers under training selected by the Education Department.

(*b*) 16.

(*c*)

Dacca Division	... ...	13
Chittagong Division	... ...	5
Rajshahi Division	... ...	2
Presidency Division	.. ..	1
Burdwan Division	... ...	1
		22
Teachers selected by the Education Department	... ...	3
	Total ...	25

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many applied for admission into the Dacca Secondary Agricultural School?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice, Sir.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in most cases it is the sons of middle-class people that are obtaining admission and that the cases of the sons of *bona fide* agriculturists are going by default?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. It is merely communal percentage.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to assign any reasons for giving undue preference to the people of the Dacca Division?

(No reply.)

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many students of the scheduled castes have been admitted in the Agricultural School this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice, Sir.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many students from the Presidency Division applied for admission into this school?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIUDDIN KHAN: I want notice, Sir.

Effects of Water-Hyacinth Act in Mymensingh.

***221. Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) from what date the Bengal Water-Hyacinth Act was notified to come into force in the district of Mymensingh;

(*ii*) what steps have the Government taken since then to carry out the purpose of the Act in the district; and

(*iii*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that the fishermen of Eastern Mymensingh are using water-hyacinth to catch fishes in rivers and *bils* during the dry season?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to take any step against those who contribute to the growth of water-hyacinth to the detriment of the interest of the cultivators and public health?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) (*i*) The middle of April, 1938.

(*ii*) the people were warned that the Bengal Water-Hyacinth Act had come into force in the district and they were called upon to clear the water-hyacinth of their respective lands on pain of the penalty prescribed under the Act. The Subdivisional and Circle Officers organised voluntary labour for the eradication of the pest. As a result, weed

was cleared from many *bils*, tanks, *dobas*, etc. Action is being taken for the prosecution of those who wilfully allowed water-hyacinth to stand on their lands. It is expected that schemes which are being organised for execution during the Bengal Water-Hyacinth Week in April will help in the eradication of a major part of the pest.

(*iii*) Yes, in a few places in the Bhati area of Kishoreganj.

(*b*) Yes, *vide* answer to clause (*a*) (*ii*) above.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of *bils*, *dobas*, and *khals* from which weed was cleared out?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice, Sir.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any prosecution during the eleven months that the Act has been in operation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not know, Sir, if there has been any prosecution since the question was given notice of, but before that no prosecution actually took place.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any prosecution against persons who did not clear the weed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has just been answered.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*a*) (*iii*), whether during the months of Falgun and Chaitra poor cultivators destroy all the hyacinth which grow or accumulate on their land, while the water-hyacinth which grow and accumulate on the *khas* lands of zemindars or Government remain in tact, and that with the advent of the rainy season this hyacinth grow far and wide and destroy the crops of the poor cultivators?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That may be so.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government are prepared to prosecute such persons as have allowed the water-hyacinth to accumulate?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Improvement of paddy crops in North Bengal.

*222. **Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state what action, if any, have the Government taken—

(*i*) for investigating into the question of improvement of rice crop in North Bengal; and

(*ii*) for marcotage experiment (*gooti*) with mango and litchi crops in the Rajshahi Division?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking early action in those matters?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) (*i*) Improved strains of both *aus* and transplanted *aman* paddies evolved by the Economic Botanist, Bengal, are being tested against the best local paddies in all the district farms of Northern Bengal. As many as 5 strains, viz., *Bhashamanik*, *Latisail*, *Jhingasail*, *Indrasail* and *Dudsar* of transplanted *aman* paddy and four strains, viz., *Dharial*, *Kataktara*, *Surjamukhi* and *Marichbati* of *aus* paddy, have been found to compete successfully with the best local paddies. These improved strains have and are being multiplied in the district farms for seeds and distributed to the cultivators.

(*ii*) No specific action for marcotage experiment with mango and litchi plants has been taken up by the Agriculture Department for the Rajshahi Division. The Economic Botanist, Bengal, however, has been carrying on extensive experiments on marcotage with mango varieties at Dacca and Krishnagar. The experiment has been successful with certain varieties of mangoes at Dacca, but it has been a failure, so far, at Krishnagar. The experiment is still being continued in both places. If and when advisable, the experiment will also be started at Rajshahi Farm.

Marcotage with litchi plants is a general practice for propagation of litchi plants, and is universally successful.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*a*) (*i*), wherein he mentions *Bhashamanik*, *Latisail*, *Jhingasail*, *Indrasail* and *Dudsar*, from which place these strains of paddy come?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: These are improved strains of paddy and are the results of experiments.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Are the experiments carried on at the Dacca Farm?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, these experiments are generally carried on at the Dacca Farm.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: May I know in which place these varieties of paddy are grown?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: At present these kinds of improved paddy are grown in North Bengal.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Clerical appointments in the Judge's Court, Tippera, in the regime of Mr. Raman Chandra Banerjee, the late District Judge.

69. Maulvi MOFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to state the number of clerks appointed in the Judge's Court, Tippera, during the time of Mr. Raman Chandra Banerjee, late District Judge, Tippera?

(*b*) How many of them are—

(*i*) Muhammadans;

(*ii*) Caste Hindus; and

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) (*i*) Did the Judge in making the appointments follow the Government instructions on the point?

(*ii*) If not, why not?

(*d*) How many clerks have been appointed in the Judge's Court of Tippera during the time of the present District Judge?

(*e*) How many of them are—

(*i*) Muhammadans;

(*ii*) Caste Hindus; and

(*iii*) Scheduled Caste Hindus?

(*f*) (*i*) Has the present District Judge followed the Government instructions regarding the percentage of appointments to different communities?

(*ii*) If not, what are the reasons?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) 12.

(*b*) (*i*) Muhammadans—4.

(*ii*) Caste Hindus—7. As a result of mutual exchange of appointment between a Hindu clerk of this office and a Muhammadan clerk of another office effected subsequently the figures stand as follows:—

Muhammadans—5.
Hindus—6.
Scheduled Castes—1.

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes—1.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Does not arise

(*d*) None.

(*e*) and (*f*) Do not arise.

Aid to Islamic Madrasahs in Bengal.

70. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to grant aid to those Islamic Madrasahs in Bengal that are not affiliated with the Board of Education of the Madrasah Alia?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these madrasahs—

(*i*) impart Islamic higher education following the standard of the Dars-e-Nizamia of United Provinces;

(*ii*) teach Islamic culture; and

(*iii*) use their scholars for the preservation of mosques?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of granting aid to these madrasahs without any addition and alteration in their curriculum?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) No.

(*b*) As these madrasahs do not come under the category of recognised institutions, I do not know what courses they follow.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Message from the Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council.

The Secretary read out the following message received from the Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council:—

(1) The Council at its meeting held on the 6th March, 1939, has agreed to the Bengal Rates of Interest Bill, 1938, without any amendments.

(2) The Council at its meeting held on the 6th March, 1939, has agreed to the Bengal Tenancy (Second Amendment) Bill, 1938, without any amendments.

(3) The Council at its meeting held on the 10th March, 1939, has agreed to the Bengal Maternity Benefit Bill, 1938, without any amendments.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I know, Sir, if these messages are from the Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council or from the Council itself?

Mr. SPEAKER: They are from the Bengal Legislative Council.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then why are they described as having been received from the Secretary, Bengal Legislative Council?

Mr. SPEAKER: The whole question will be settled after the rules are framed. I took up the matter last year and suggested that such messages should be sent from the Speaker to the President, or from the President to the Speaker, as the case may be. But I am afraid I cannot do anything until we change our rules. I hope to take up the matter again shortly.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, we have already finished two years. May we know when these are likely to be revised?

Mr. SPEAKER: By the end of this financial year.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

Mr. SPEAKER: I propose, if possible, to close the debate including the reply of the Hon'ble Minister by 7 o'clock to-night so that one hour may be left for the next item. My difficulty is that there are a good number of speakers on both sides of the House and I have naturally to clip some of them.

Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJI: Sir, I move the motion that stands in my name, namely, that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 (to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in the matter of unemployment).

Sir, I frankly confess that I am unequal to the magnitude of the task that confronts me just now, but at the same time, I am supported and encouraged by a conviction which is deep in me that weak as the advocate may be, great is the cause which he has the honour to represent, for if there is one problem more than any other which has been engaging the serious attention of every civilized Government of the world and on the proper solution of which the security, safety and stability of those Governments depend, it is the problem of unemployment, and if, Sir, there is one problem more than any other on which the present Government ought to bestow more attention and to which it has shown utter callousness and utmost indifference, it is the problem of unemployment in Bengal. The problem of unemployment is a vast problem and many schools of thought have advanced different theories as to its causes but one common factor that emerges out of them all is the mal-adjustment of production and consumption in the present society where millions of people live in poverty in the very midst of plenty. The effects of unemployment, Sir, can be better imagined than described. It reduces national wealth: it brings in poverty in its wake: it brings in depression in family life resulting sometimes in suicide and last but not the least, it is the breeding ground of revolution of which each and every Government should take a timely warning. Unemployment, Sir, must exist so long as the present capitalistic structure of society continues to exist. If you want to remove unemployment, if you want to see that the society does not suffer from the evils of unemployment, you will have to go to the very root of the problem, you will have to do away with capitalism. So long, then, as the capitalistic mode of production continues to exist, so long as profit will continue to be the motive force of production, and not use, so long as the means of production, distribution and exchange remain the private property of the capitalists as a class, so long there will be mal-adjustment between production and consumption and so long unemployment will continue to exist. But, Sir, here, we are confronted with a problem which does not deal with the absolute elimination of unemployment but with the creation of avenues of employment and the mitigation of its evils when and where it exists. Let us for a moment, then, come to grips with what the Government have so long done. In the Unemployment Comimttee Report of Dr. Sapru, we find a short history given. I will refer to the relevant portions from that. In 1922 the matter was put before the Bengal Legislative Council in the form of a resolution and the resolution was passed with the result that a Committee was appointed which submitted a report in 1924. Then again

in 1926 in the Indian Legislative Assembly, Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar moved a resolution which dealt with middle-class unemployment. For the first time, Sir, in the history of Indian legislation, the problem of unemployment in general, including that of middle classes, was brought to the notice of the Government of India in the Council of State by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Jagadish Prashad, in March, 1934. But, as was inevitable, it was turned down by the Government of India. The late Government of Bengal, that is before the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, had done something to implement the recommendations of the report submitted by the Unemployment Committee, appointed under the resolution already referred to. As a result, something, though very little, was done to remove middle-class unemployment, as the Hon'ble Nawab Farooqui, the then Minister for Agriculture himself admitted, it touched only the fringe of the problem. What have the present Government done? They seem to be satisfied and have done their duty by appointing an Employment Officer last year. We do not know what this officer has been advising the Government. We do not know what Government have been doing, following his advice. But we know this much that he has written a small article in the "Bengal Weekly" wherein he said that the problem was vast and complex and was not as simple as was imagined by the ordinary man accustomed to hear the common platform speakers. A good solution indeed! As if a fling at the speakers who bring to the notice of the Government the enormity of the problem will bring us nearer the solution. We know, we appreciate, we realise that the problem is not simple, it is very vast, complex and intricate and because of this we demand that the Government do take up the solution of the problem in right earnest and that immediately without any further loss of time. What then are the Government going to do? Are they going to do really anything to remove unemployment? Are they really considering the steps that have been taken by the Governments abroad for the purpose of mitigating the effects of unemployment? Are the present Government going to provide work for the unemployed, are they going to introduce schemes of unemployment insurance as a measure of relief? We demand an answer.

Sir, I cannot resist the temptation of quoting here from the admirable statement read out to us the other day by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. I know he is a past master in the art of making such statements only to be surpassed by his Hon'ble Chief. It reads thus:

"To elevate society, to improve the human material, to provide the common man with the barest minimum for a decent life and to open up to him the possibilities for a better and richer life is a duty which devolves on all of us. As Government we shall do all we can".

Noble words these, but will these remain only idle words or will he be true to them and transform them into reality and translate them

into action? These words are not new—they are the echo of similar statements read out by him before this House during the last two years, but, Sir, they have led us nowhere and we are where we have been so long. If the Finance Minister really means what he says, let him realise that in the final analysis unemployment can be resolved into the reflex action of economic backwardness and whatever leads to economic betterment will obviously lead to its solution. Let him, then, provide for the economic betterment of the country so that there is increase in the purchasing power of the people, increase in the productive power of the country, improvement and expansion of industries, improvement in agriculture and irrigation and, Sir,——

(Here the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I have your permission to move either a short-notice amendment or a motion of cut on a very important matter of privileges which has just arisen out of a circular that has been handed over to our chief Whip regarding a show arranged by the Publicity Department of Government in a cinema of a number of tours the photos of which have been taken by the Publicity Department. Sir, we are not going to be insulted in this manner by the Publicity Department. I draw your attention to the fact that a matter like this ought to have come either through you or through the Secretary of the department, but an official of the Secretariat should not have utilised the floor of the House for such kind of action. I submit that you will allow me to move a short-notice motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite appreciate your point and I feel that it is perfectly correct that no letter should be distributed in the Assembly except through the Assembly Department. I realise that point and I will see that this is done by nobody else than us. We will take steps accordingly in future.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I tabled a motion regarding the appointment of non-Bengalis in the various departments of Government when the question of unemployment of the Bengalis was looming large before the country. Before I go into that question I deem it desirable to touch upon certain matters which were harped upon yesterday by some of the members of the Opposition. During the last two years distressed at the unfortunate condition of the people of my community I tried to ventilate their grievances through the Assembly regarding the behaviour that is meted out to the Mussalmans in the various departments of the Government, because I felt that without any public agitation it was impossible for any community, if that community were found to be weak, to have their grievances redressed. This year studiously I tried to avoid any speech regarding communalism or sectionalism——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I draw your attention to the fact that distribution of that letter is still going on.

Mr. SPEAKER: If this is being done by our department it is perfectly alright.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: So I find that it is necessary to touch upon some of the points that have already been touched upon by the other party. Mr. Sur belonging to the Congress Group stressed a point yesterday which embarrassed me very much and has practically made me nervous over the condition of the Mussalmans unless the Mussalmans do assert their position in a rightful manner. He said when talking of communalism that the Mussalman officers are rank communalists. I challenge my friend over there. I desire to submit on this point that if he be required to stand before the bar of public opinion, he will find that the Mussalman officers to a man are strictly honest, strictly impartial, strictly truthful, and it is for the public to say whether the Mussalman officers are communal or the Hindus are, of course with few exceptions. So long as the Mussalmans were not highly educated, were not in the forefront of education, there was no grievance whatsoever coming from our Hindu friends. But as soon as the Mussalmans have taken to education and are claiming their legitimate rights——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have made an enquiry and found that the envelopes are being distributed by the Assembly Department.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: On a point of order, Sir. In spite of the fact that Dr. Sanyal was told by the Hon'ble Speaker that the letters were being distributed by the Assembly Department, and that the matter would be considered by the Hon'ble Speaker, he left his seat and dragged an orderly into the well of the House, and then trampled those letters. I request you, Sir, to take this matter into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think Dr. Sanyal has been so calm for the last few days that he is compensating now.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: May I know, Sir, whether a member is in order in leaving his seat and getting hold of an orderly——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He was a stranger and had no right to enter the Chamber. Is not the Speaker competent enough to find out whether he was an outsider or not?

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I was just stressing the point that the charge of communalism cannot lie at the door of the Mussalmans because so long as the Mussalmans were ignorant, they did not get their legitimate share in the services of Government. Now that they have come to the forefront, they have learnt how to cry, they have learnt how to agitate, they have learnt how to claim, comes the counter-demand from the other party that the Mussalmans wherever they may be appointed cannot be given any shelter. Our Hindu friends have also got the right to do it, because so long they were enjoying the loaves and fishes of the office, so long they were undisputed masters of the entire situation. Therefore to be communal for them is to some extent justified because what was their monopoly is now going to be broken. I tell my friend Mr. Sur that if he be just, honest and sincere he would find that the Mussalmans to a man are not communal in the least.

Therefore I will appeal to the Leader of the Congress Group and to the Whip of the Congress Group too that if they really want the co-operation of the people they must show that we are treated justly and they must also show that the speeches of the members of that group are also bridled to some extent. They talk of nationalism. I do not understand what they mean by nationalism. Does nationalism mean extirpation of the entire community? Does nationalism mean that it is practically Hinduism? Does nationalism mean that Mussalmans have no voice whatsoever? By nationalism you must mean that, in the land inhabited by various communities, each community has a clear right of expression Therefore Mussalmans are agitating for it and they are adding their quota to nationalism. Without Mussalmans no nationalism by yourselves can go on and prosper. What I mean by nationalism is this; it is a combined effort of both the communities inhabiting the land of Bengal towards the achievement of the final goal. And that you forget. What do you mean by nationalism? You only mean nationalism of a restricted character which means Hinduism.

Leaving it at that, I shall take up a few of the points that were stressed yesterday by my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar. I doubt whether in expressing himself as he did, he really expressed like a true Mussalman.

I was really surprised to find that Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar did an injustice not only to himself but to the entire community of Muslims inhabiting this land of Bengal. When he referred to Rama and Yudhistir, he betrayed a colossal ignorance of the history of Islam. Who is there so great, so bold, so honest, than the Prophet of Arabia, the Prophet of the entire Islamic world? Is not the Prophet an epitome of honesty, bravery and every other virtue? Does it lie in the mouth of Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar to declare before this House that Yudhistir or Rama was the epitome of honesty? I would advise——

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not desirable that the debate should be allowed to be degenerated. When a reference is made, it is not necessary to make a counter reference. The debate is open. If the Prophet's name is mentioned, somebody who does not belong to Islam may say something else which is most undesirable. If you like you may refer to other things of Islam and Islamic history without mentioning the Prophet.

I trust that the members will not degenerate this House to a market place. I find references are being made by members which are not couched in very good taste to any side of the House. Because there was so much noise, I did not catch certain expressions. I think that Mr. Bari is completely wrong in making that statement. This House has to carry on the debate with dignity and decorum and I think the references made by Maulvi Abdul Bari are not in consonance with what I have said. That is an end of the matter.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Yesterday my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar did some wrong to some noblemen in Bengal. He referred to the family of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca. May I point out this to him that if he has got the spirit of hero worship he must realise that the hallowed and sacred memory of Nawab Salimulla still holds good in the minds of the people of Bengal. It was he who brought about the renaissance amongst the Muslims of Bengal. It was through him that the Muslims of Bengal attained the position, which they hold to-day.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I understand, Sir, that my speech has to be compressed within a brief period of ten minutes though it covers the entire field (which is very wide) of General Administration including the so many cut motions that have been moved. I would accordingly just touch upon a few points for the consideration of this House and the Hon'ble Ministers.

Let me first of all turn to the cut motion moved by my friend Mr. Maqbul Hossain about the fixation of a percentage of appointments for Muslims and the Scheduled Castes in the public services. We all know, Sir, that as far back as August 1938, about 8 months ago, this House passed a resolution without a division on the motion of a member of the Coalition that a certain precentage of the services be set apart for the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes. The Ministry have not, during this period of 8 months, either accepted or rejected this resolution. They have not come to a decision on this pressing problem. Sir, 8 months is not a small period. Besides this question was pending from before the present Ministry came into power and the resolution in question was tabled when all the materials were already ready before

the Ministry. It cannot, therefore, be said with any kind of justification that the Ministry could not by this time give out or announce their decision on this problem, considered so important by every member of the Coalition though I, for myself, do not attach much importance to it at all. Sir, I submit that this question raises a very important constitutional issue and, to say the least, in my humble submission, the attitude of the Ministry is not only very undesirable but highly objectionable: in my submission, it is also constitutionally not permissible.

I have always understood the constitutional position to be—and I make this statement on what I considered to be the opinion of a most high authority in India—and I would ask for an enlightenment on this point from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister—that when a resolution is passed by this House there are only two alternatives left to the Ministry—either to accept it, or if they find it impossible to accept it, to resign from the Ministry. Sir, on this particular occasion, in view of the delay that has already taken place, it may be conceived that there was a third alternative also and that alternative was this that the Ministry could get rescinded or amended the resolution passed by this House at the earliest possible opportunity, at the commencement of this session, inasmuch as, admittedly, they have got a very large majority in this House. Sir, in these circumstances I would appeal to the members, to my friends in the Coalition, through you, with folded hands, just to insist upon the Ministry either to accept it or to reject it, or if they admit that they have committed a blunder, to get the resolution rescinded or amended according to their will which they can very easily do. Sir, I may at once make my position quite clear. I am not at all enamoured of this resolution, knowing, as I do, the object, purpose and worth of such a resolution. But, Sir, my present purpose is simply this. I pray, with folded hands, not only to the Coalition but to the Ministry as a whole and to the Chief Minister in particular not to create a bad precedent, a bad convention, which will be cursed by posterity. If this precedent stands and this convention stands, it will be open to any future Ministry to set at naught or flout any resolution passed by this House which, I submit most respectfully, is quite contrary to the convention prevalent in other democratic countries, as far as my knowledge goes and as far as I could gather from persons well versed in constitutional law. Sir, that is my objection—an objection to the creation of a bad precedent.

It may be urged that this resolution involves the special responsibility of the Governor. With regard to that point, Sir, I would again remind the Hon'ble the Chief Minister of the opinion he held about what is actually within the special responsibility of the Governor. The provision of the Statute taken with the Instrument of Instructions may admit of an interpretation that the Governor is bound to see that

the policy, viz., the reservation for the minority communities must be followed but not the percentage. That was the interpretation that was put, if I remember aright, by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and that appears to be in consonance with the spirit of the law. Now, Sir, even assuming that it involves the special responsibility of the Governor, this House has a right to know whether it is the Ministers who have refused to accept the resolution or whether the Governor has refused to give his assent to this resolution. If again the Ministry accepts and the Governor does not, a constitutional issue of first class importance will arise, and it may be necessary for the Coalition or for this House to call upon the Ministry to resign on that very issue. So far, with regard to the constitutional point.

The next thing on which I want to say a few words only is the merits of the resolution. Now, Sir, I am afraid, I shall not be permitted by you or by the time at my disposal to discuss the merits and demerits, the desirability or otherwise of or the arguments for and against any proposal for reservation of percentages for any community, backward, forward or advanced. I shall content myself by saying that it appears to me that the controversy that has raged round this problem, when analysed, reveals a mentality so ugly that it will make, in my humble submission, every Indian, be he a Hindu, a Muslim or a Christian, hang down his head in shame. The causes for the paucity of Muslims in the administrative system of this country are matters of history which, I submit, do not admit of any controversy. With the fall of the Muslim Empire it was natural for the Muslims to non-co-operate, it was equally natural for the Europeans to keep the Muslims as far away as possible from the administration. It was certainly in the interests of the Britishers to create a system of services with high salaries out of all proportion with the earning of the average Indian to ensure loyal support to the foreign rule that was then established ——

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up, Mr. Nausher Ali.

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I should be glad if you would kindly allow me a few minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: How long will you take?

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I shall take three or four minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can give you two minutes more but you should realise my difficulty to accommodate so many members who are all desirous to speak within the short space of time allotted to this head.

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I quite realise your difficulty, Sir, and I am thankful to you for allowing me this concession.

As a result thereof, we find that for over a century the flowers of the nation considered it to be the *summum bonum* of their life to serve the British *raj* in positions not higher than that of the Deputy Magistrate. A section of the Hindus soon realised the mistake and turned round, our rulers smelt danger, turned to the Muslims and smiled at them. The Muslims, by now crushed and reduced to helots quite forgetful of their past, jumped at the feet of the Britishers in expectation of a few dry bones that may be thrown to them from the table of their masters. Now that section of the Hindus who by that time became absolutely dependent on services resented this as an encroachment upon their rights, turned round and said, "you inefficient fools, how dare you claim to serve our masters whom we have been serving for three generations. *Golami* is our birth-right." The Muslim turned round and said with equal emphasis "well, it will no longer be so. I have grown wiser by experience. Give me opportunity and I will prove a worthier *golam* than you". This is the mentality, Sir----

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have participated in to-day's discussion but for the fact that my friend Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur had spoken about certain incidents at Feni alleged to have taken place on the 1st of February last, owing to the construction of an *Idgah* in the heart of the Feni town. He stated that on the last *Id* day Muslim hooligans terrorised the Hindus and that the Government did not take any action although this news was published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. I must say at the very outset that the allegations are absolutely untrue. I would like to give you in brief what really happened there.

The mass uplift programme, inaugurated by the present Subdivisional Officer, Mr. M. Rahman, created an unprecedented enthusiasm amongst the masses as it was meant for ameliorating their condition by dint of self-help and voluntary labour, which enthusiasm unnerved certain self-seekers out to exploit the poor people for their own selfish ends. During his short regime Mr. Rahman had a number of roads, *khals*, and bunds made by voluntary labour of the people, both Muslims and Hindus. A high school, named *Ataturk High School*, was brought into being under the inspiring leadership of the Subdivisional Officer. Moreover, about 40,000 Muslims and also hundreds of Hindus from the muffasil areas inspired by the Subdivisional Officer's sincerity to lift them up came and cheerfully dug earth for over a fortnight to construct the Feni *Idgah*, since named "Mizan Maidan", where about 50,000

Muslims prayed their last *Id* prayer. All these caused heart-burning in certain mischievous quarters which started circulating surreptitious rumours about the possibility of Hindu-Muslim trouble on the occasion of the *Bakr-Id* day. The Hindus were told that the Muslims would sacrifice the Hindus instead of cows and the Muslims were told that the Hindus had imported up-country Hindu goondas to stop *korbani*. These rumours were circulated just before the *Id* and appeared to have been circulated by a gang of designing people including a Hindu police officer. Immediately the rumours came to the notice of the Subdivisional Officer, he went round the various localities and addressed large audiences in many places and asked the local Presidents and others to be on the watch and seize the rumour-mongers. Even Jagat Mahajan of Rujnapur, about whom I will presently tell you, who happened to meet the Subdivisional Officer just before the *Id* prayers, denied there being any apprehension of trouble in his area.

The *Id* prayer at Feni which was attended by over 50,000 Muslims, was performed quite peacefully. About 600 Hindus also came on invitation and listened to the sermons of the Imam, Shamsul-Ulema Maulana Mozharul Huq of Calcutta. Mr. Mitra, the then District Magistrate of Noakhali, was also present there on invitation and addressed the congregation and complimented them in unstinted terms, stating that the huge congregation had "out-soldiered the soldiers" in point of discipline and order. The Subdivisional Officer, who also spoke on the occasion, stressed the need for Hindu-Muslim unity.

In the afternoon Jagat Mahajan came to the Subdivisional Officer at his bungalow and reported to him that he had heard only a few minutes before from his servant that thousands of Muslims were looting his house at Rajnagar, 7 miles off from Feni. The Subdivisional Officer at once proceeded in a car with the officer-in-charge of the police-station and went straight to Jagat Mahajan's house but found that the inmates were carrying on their normal avocations. They simply stated that about 2,000 Muslims from the neighbouring locality armed with *lathis*, *daos*, etc., entered into their house and inquired if any up-country Hindus were harboured there, but finding none went away after doing some minor mischief, but none of the inmates were touched or molested. No property was taken away. They could not give the names of the alleged miscreants. The image of a god was found intact inside the *mandap*.

The officers then visited the other three houses alleged to have also been visited by the mob in search of the up-country Hindus. Everywhere the same story was narrated by the inmates present—none of whom were molested by the alleged trespassers. Marks of minor, or rather playful, blows were noticeable in the fencings of the houses. At about 5 p.m. the Circle Officer and Babu Lalit Chandra Chakravarty, Circle Inspector of Police, arrived on the scene——

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, অনেক সময় আপনি একথা বোলেছেন যে বক্তৃতা প্রসঙ্গে কোন বাইরের লোকের নাম করা ঠিক হবেনা। তবু উনি বারবার বাইরের লোকের নাম কোরছেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I must say that it is extremely undesirable that any allegations, except of a very general character, should be made against anybody who is not a member of this House and therefore is not in a position to defend himself.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: All right, Sir. This Lalit Babu was the officer-in-charge of the local police-station in the Barisal district when the tragedy of Kulkati took place. The *ejahars* were then recorded by the officer-in-charge of the Feni police-station from the owners of the houses alleged to have been visited by the trespassers. There was no defilement of image in any house but at the hint of Lalit Babu the Sil complainant added after his *ejahar* that the image of his house was defiled by the miscreants. It is this Lalit Babu who was trying to bolster up the story of image defilement——

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: On a point of order, Sir. I understand, Sir, that the case is *sub judice* and I am further informed that my friend over there has been summoned and would be giving evidence in favour of the accused. Is he entitled to make the remarks which he has made just now?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. No reference should be made whatsoever to any matter which is *sub judice* by one side or the other.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: All right, Sir. The District Magistrate also came the next day and he too noticed that perfect peace and concord prevailed everywhere, and there was not even a panic which was alleged by the people to be existing. This was, however, a stage-managed affair and really hatched up by some designing persons in their own interests. Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur, without making any enquiry personally in the locality, got some resolutions passed and sent the same to the press in order to create materials to move an adjournment motion in the Assembly of which he gave a notice at the commencement of the session and failing to move it, he spoke about this matter in connection with a cut motion.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: May I submit, Sir, for your information that Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur had been to the locality——

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you; I am not interested in the movements of Mr. Sur! (Laughter.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like at this stage to call the attention of the House to the unemployment policy or want of any policy with regard to employment or unemployment, so far as this Government is concerned. To-day, Sir, this Government has completed two years of its existence, and is introducing the third budget before this House which is under discussion this evening. But, Sir, despite two years of its existence, it has hardly had any policy whatsoever with regard to the question of providing the young men of Bengal with employment. In this respect, this Government would very much resemble a boat without a rudder, which is directing all its energies to keeping itself afloat. It is keeping itself afloat not on a merry streamlet but on a deluge, in which the land is sinking, in which the wealth of the people is going down, in which the people are being broken from day to day. And in this boat have been hiding the eleven, twelve or thirteen Ministers—the number fluctuates—in the orgy of their cruelty—the reckless merriment and festivities of the "happy family" in utter disregard of the needs of the province. We have, Sir, in this province, a Ministry consisting of 11, 12 or 13 members entrusted with different portfolios, entrusted with the task of conscientiously discharging their functions—to try and help in the economic reconstruction of the province as a whole. There is the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labour and there are Ministries for all different sections of the Province's affairs in which Government are interested. But up till to-day, we have not had one composite scheme for providing young men of Bengal with employment. We have not even had a serious effort on the part of Government to ascertain the avenues of employment, to find out how soon a composite scheme can be put into practice with a view to giving employment to those who need it. Yet, thousands and lakhs of rupees are being squandered away for trivial and base propaganda purposes. We have seen this year a shameless—I use this term because there is no more appropriate and stronger term to condemn this grant adequately—a shameless grant of Rs. 30,000 out of the public funds to a mere rag for the purpose of base propaganda. But we have not had a grant of Rs. 3,000 for the purpose of helping to evolve a policy for solving the unemployment problem of this province. Now, may I refer to what is happening this very moment in order to call attention of the House and of the public to the scourge of unemployment in this province? The Bengal Provincial Unemployment Federation has come into existence and one of its members, a young man named Asmath with his mother and wife has been on hunger-strike to call the attention of the people of Bengal

to the condition of the unemployed. What do we find is the Government doing? Government is endeavouring to curtail the avenues of employment. There is the question of percentage of division among the various communities in respect of the apportionment of services. What is the real fact? The real fact is that a large number of young men and women want employment to-day. There isn't employment enough for them. But Government fails to understand or appreciate their responsibility and to explore avenues of employment or to evolve a policy. This Government thrives on communal dissension and tries to create mere communal apportionment of the number of services that are available. We have no more than 40 per cent. or so services in proportion to the number of men who want employment. What is the solution that the present Government offer? They are trying to create communal dissension and put forward communal claims in different public services but they do not care to create more avenues of employment. To-day the problem for any conscientious Government in this province is not the apportionment of services that are available between Muslims, Hindus and Anglo-Indians. The problem is one of creating enough services and avenues of employment for all our unemployed young men and women, whether they be Muslims, Hindus or Anglo-Indians—for all those who inhabit the land of Bengal. What account can Government give in this behalf? Empty plotitudes to justify their policy of *laissez faire* which leaves the things as they are, their inertia finding encouragement, perhaps, in the discarded economic doctrines of Ricardo and Malthus. Their penmen apologists are looking back to by-gone ages for economic theories for the purpose of justifying their criminal acts of omissions to-day. They plead there are more men than services. They fail to draw their lessons from history, from history that is living and is solving the problem of unemployment. There is no coming to grips with the problem of unemployment. They draw no lessons from the example of planned economy in the Soviet Union, which is being more and more emulated by various other countries. There, they are creating employment: they are co-ordinating the various avenues of employment in order to increase the income of the people for building up their health and raising their cultural life thereby creating new nations,—culturally advanced, economically sound and physically fit. At the same time, there are pictures of bread quest in America where crores of unemployed people are being shut out of every avenue of employment. But in Bengal there is neither planned economy nor an organised system of charity for giving doles to those who need them. There is, on the contrary, an organised drive to throw more people out of employment. I regret to say that the Department which should have shown more energy in tackling the problem of unemployment—I mean the Department of Labour—has instead criminally aided and abetted the process of increasing

unemployment. For instance, improved machinery invented to reduce the irksomeness of labour are being introduced in our jute mills. But here we find that the irksomeness of labour instead of being reduced is being increased every day and as a result of the introduction of improved machinery thousands of workers are being thrown out of employment. The problem of unemployment is being intensified. This is how improvement in technique, instead of creating more avenues of employment for our labourers, instead of creating better and healthier conditions for our labourers, has aggravated their conditions owing to the planlessness of our Government, whereas it might have been used to create less toil and more employment.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that it is in this perspective that Government should have considered its task—the perspective of creating employment for all fit persons in the land who are ready and willing to work, but cannot find any. You know that only recently a resolution was passed by this House curtailing the period of service of Government employees (in no case to exceed 25 years). Now that would be a fair proposition if men at their old age after 25 years' service found that their progeny were provided with employment and that there were avenues open to them. But if the Government fails to rise up to the task and cannot provide such opportunities, then after 25 years' service Government employees with modest means are thrown into dire distress without any prospect ahead. Here is an instance where, with a view to give employment to new men you do not create any new employment, but merely replace those who are in employment with a view to give opportunities to others. That does not solve the problem. There is no expansion of the scope of employment. Government, instead of utilising the resources of the province, instead of planning out for expansion of our resources, is trying to utilise or rather misuse those resources for the purpose of creating dissension and division in the people of Bengal on a communal basis. To-day the Hindus and Muhammadans have no reason whatsoever to fight for jobs, if all Hindus and Mussalmans get a chance, if all young Hindus and Muhammadans find that avenues are open for them. This Government is trying to bring the people of Bengal down to the level of beasts. As dogs quarrel among themselves for a few paltry crumbs so you try to bring the humanity of this province to the same level of dog fight for a few crumbs. It is because of the failure of Government to find avenues of employment, that ye have come to such a pass. Three years have elapsed, and this House has voted on the recommendation of the

present Government well-nigh 50 crores of rupees, but we have advanced not an inch towards the solution of the unemployment problem."

(Here the member having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: এই পরিষদে ইছলাম বিপন্ন শব্দের টানা হেঁচড়া করিয়া কংগ্রেস সদস্যগণ ও বিদ্রোহী প্রজা কম্পানীর সদস্যগণ অবিরত কোয়ালিসান পার্টীর মুসলমান সদস্যগণের অন্যায় আক্রমণ চালাইয়া আসিতেছেন। আমি একজন মুসলমান সদস্যরূপে বন্ধুদিগকে জানাইয়া দিতেছি যে, ইছলাম বিপন্নের কোন আশঙ্কা কোন মুসলমানের নাই। আমি এবং প্রত্যেক মুসলমান জীবনের শেষ মুহূর্ত্তেও বিশ্বাস করিতেছি ও করিব যে (অবশ্য কংগ্রেসী কেন্চাটা সদস্য নয়) ইছলাম বিপদগ্রস্ত হইতে পারে না। যদি কেহ ইছলামকে বিপদগ্রস্ত করিতে চায়, সমস্ত ভারত বিপদগ্রস্ত হইবে। বিধ্বস্ত হইবে। ইছলাম সগৌরবে এই ভারতে অবস্থান করিবে। মিঃ আবু হোসেন সরকার গতকল্য দেশের সর্ব্বজনমান্য ত্যাগী জননায়ক মাননীয় এ. কে. ফজলুল হক ও দরিদ্রের সেবায় আত্মোৎসর্গকারী দেশের চিরসেবক ঢাকা পরিবারকে, মাননীয় সারওয়ার্দ্দি এবং কোয়ালিসান পার্টির সদস্যগণকে যে নীতিতে আক্রমণ করিয়াছেন তাহা অতীব নিন্দনীয়। মিঃ আবুহোসেন সরকার এণ্ড কোং কংগ্রেসের সংস্পর্শে যাইয়া নিজ সম্প্রদায় হইতে কতদূরে সরিয়া গিয়াছেন এবং ধর্ম্মনীতি ও রাজনীতিক্ষেত্রে তাঁহার কতদূর পতন ঘটিয়াছে তাঁহার বক্তৃতাই তাঁর জলন্ত প্রমাণ এবং তিনি কোন শ্রেণীর লোক তাঁহার ভাষা ও রুচিই তাঁহার পরিচয় দিয়াছে। এই দেশ ও তাঁহার সম্প্রদায় তাঁহার এই বিদ্রোহী দলের এই অপরাধ ক্ষমা করিবেন না।

আমার বিদ্রোহী বন্ধুকে জানাইয়া দিতেছি যে, সেই দিন অতি দূরে নয়। গরীব প্রজাদের ও সম্প্রদায়ের এই বিশ্বাসঘাতকগণকে তাহার উপযুক্ত কৈফিয়ৎ দিয়া উপযুক্ত প্রায়শ্চিত্ত গ্রহণ করিতেই হইবে। কোয়ালিসন পার্টীর সদস্যদের জনপ্রিয়তার উপর তিনি হিংসাত্মক আক্রমণ করিয়াছেন। তাই আমার বন্ধুকে বলিতেছি যে, ঐ মিরজাফরী দল হইতে নাম কাটাইয়া আমাদের এই দেশ প্রিয় কোয়ালিসন দলে আসিয়া যোগদান করুন। আমাদের সহিত দেশ সেবায় আত্মোৎসর্গ করুন। আপনিও দেশের প্রিয় হইতে পারিবেন কিন্তু যতদিন ঐ দলে থাকিবেন দেশ ও সমাজ-বর্জ্জিত জীবন কাটাইতে হইবে। কোয়ালিসন পার্টীর কোন মুসলমান সদস্য শরত বসুর দলে যাইবে না। যদিই বা কোন member আবুহোসেন সরকারের অনুকরণ করেন তিনি আবু-হুসেন সরকারের ন্যায় সমাজ-বর্জ্জিত হইবেন। মিঃ সরকার যেন ইহা মনে রাখেন, কংগ্রেস সদস্য মিঃ হরেন্দ্র কুমার সূর জাতিধর্ম্মনির্বিশেষে প্রিয় মাননীয় মিঃ এ. কে. ফজলুল হক ও তাঁহার গভর্ণমেণ্টের এবং কোয়ালিসন পার্টীর সদস্যদের উপর এমন কি মুসলমান officer দের উপর ও সাম্প্রদায়িকতার অভিযোগ আনিয়া বক্তৃতা করিয়াছেন ইহাতে আশ্চর্য্যান্বিত বা বিচলিত হইবার কিছুই নাই। ছদ্মবেশী সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠান কংগ্রেস সদস্যের নিকট অসাম্প্রদায়িক উদার ও ন্যায়পরায়ণ সমালোচনা আশা করা বিড়ম্বনা মাত্র। ইহারা যে মাকাল ফলের ন্যায় তাহা সর্ব্ববাদী সম্মত। মিঃ হরেন্দ্র কুমার সূর মাননীয় মিঃ এ. কে. ফজলুল হক ও তাঁহার গভর্ণমেণ্ট এবং কোয়ালিসন পার্টীর মুসলমান সদস্য ও মুসলমান officer দের কার্য্য সমালোচনা করিবার পূর্ব্বে রাজাগোপাল আচারিয়া, টীকৃত সিংহ, গোবিন্দ বল্লভ পান্থ, পণ্ডিত বিশ্বনাথ, মিঃ শুক্লা ও মিঃ খের এবং তাঁহাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট এবং হিন্দু অফিসারগণ কংগ্রেস প্রদেশের সংখ্যা লঘিষ্ঠ মুসলমান ও অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ের ধর্ম্মনৈতিক ও রাজনৈতিক অধিকার কাড়িয়া লইয়া মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের উপর যে অমানুষিক নির্য্যাতন করিতেছেন এবং মিঃ পান্থি ও সর্দারকার প্রভৃতির নেতৃত্বে ভারতের দশকোটি মুসলমানকে হিন্দু অনার্য্যধার তাড়াইয়া দিয়া ভারতকে খাঁটী হিন্দুস্থান করিবার জন্য যে সংগ্রাম ঘোষনা করিয়াছেন মিঃ হরেন্দ্র সূর ও তাঁহার সহকর্ম্মীগণ উক্ত সংগ্রামের সৈনিক হইয়া প্রকৃত সত্যকে ধামা চাপা দিয়া, একটি ন্যায়পরায়ণ উদার সমদর্শী অসাম্প্রদায়িক গভর্ণমেণ্ট এর উপর এবং আত্মরক্ষণশীল মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের ও তাঁহার সদস্যদের এবং কর্ম্মচারীদের উপর সাম্প্রদায়িকতার অপবাদ আনিয়া সত্যের মস্তকেই পদাঘাত করিয়াছেন। মুক্তিপ্রাপ্ত রাজনৈতিক বন্দিগণ দেশে আসিবার পরই নূতন পরিস্থিতি দেখা দিয়াছে। ইহারা কংগ্রেসের সহিত একমত হইয়া কিরূপ

আন্দোলনের নামে জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বিপ্লববাদ প্রচার করিতেছে। বর্ত্তমান বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও তাঁহার সমর্থক সদস্যদের বিরুদ্ধে প্রচার এবং মুসলমান সম্প্রদায় যেন লীগের পতাকা তলে সমবেত না হয় ও সঙ্ঘবদ্ধ না হয়, ভারত কেশরী মিঃ জিন্না এবং মাননীয় মিঃ ফজলুল হকের নেতৃত্বে পরিচালিত না হয় ইত্যাদি প্রচার আরম্ভ করিয়াছেন। নোয়াখালী জেলাতে ও মিঃ হরেন্দ্র সুর মুক্তিপ্রাপ্ত রাজবন্দি এবং কংগ্রেস কর্ম্মীদের নেতৃত্বে এইপ্রকার প্রচার চলিতেছে। ইহাতে নোয়াখালীর জনসাধারণের মধ্যে তীব্র বিক্ষোভ সৃষ্টি হয়। গভর্ণমেণ্ট অফিসারদের দ্বারা বাধাপ্রাপ্ত হওয়ায় আবার বন্ধুর গাত্রদাহ উপস্থিত হইয়াছে, মিঃ সুর বিপ্লববাদ প্রচার; এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের ও তাঁহার সমর্থকদের বিরুদ্ধে জনমত গঠন এবং মুছলিম লীগের বিরুদ্ধে প্রচার উদ্দেশ্যে সদল বলে নোয়াখালী চৌমুহালী, মোনাইমুড়ি, রাজগঞ্জ, রায়পুর, লফিপুর, ফেনী ইত্যাদি স্থানে অনেক টাকা পয়সা খরচ করিয়া জাঁকজমকের সহিত ভ্রমন করিয়া পাঁচটি লোকেরও সমর্থন পান নাই। গতকল্যকার পরিষদে বক্তৃতা তাহারই বিকার মাত্র নোয়াখালিতে কোনপ্রকার হিন্দু মুসলমান দলাদলি বা সাম্প্রদায়িক দলাদলি নাই। ইহা কংগ্রেসের বন্ধুদের কারসাজী মাত্র। মিঃ সুরকে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে চাই, এই দেশে সাম্প্রদায়িকতার সৃষ্টি কে করিয়াছে। আমার অভিজ্ঞতা হইতে বলিব, করিয়াছে কংগ্রেস মহাসভা, এক শ্রেণীর হিন্দু কাগজ ও এক শ্রেণীর হিন্দু officer মুসলমান সাম্প্রদায়িক নয়, সে সর্ব্বদাই তাহার নিজ প্রাপ্য আদায় ও আত্মরক্ষা করিতে চায়। আক্রমন তাহার ধর্ম্মে হারাম। মুসলমান যখনই তাহার ন্যায্য প্রাপ্য আদায়ের জন্য দাঁড়ায় কংগ্রেস ভাষায় তখনই সাম্প্রদায়িক; আর হিন্দু তাহার ন্যায্য প্রাপ্য ষোল আনা আদায় করিয়াও মুসলমানের প্রাপ্য অংশ লুটিয়া যায় তাহারই নাম কংগ্রেসের ভাষায় জাতীয়তা। এই ভেল্কিতে মুসলমান ভুলিবে না। তাহার ন্যায্য প্রাপ্য আদায় করিবেই। অবশ্য শান্তিপূর্ণ আন্দোলনের দ্বারা। আমরা জানি গভর্ণমেণ্ট বা officer দের কোন জাতিধর্ম্ম নাই। officer দের ধর্ম্ম সম্রাটের প্রজাবৃন্দকে জাতিধর্ম্মনির্ব্বিশেষে সেবা করা, সাহায্য করা। আমি কংগ্রেস বন্ধুদিগকে Challenge দিয়া বলিতেছি মুসলমান officer গণ এই নীতির মর্য্যাদা রক্ষা করিয়া চাকুরী করিতেছেন। মিঃ সাহেদ আলী আজাদ পত্রিকার বরাদ্দ সম্পর্কে আক্রমন করিয়াছিলেন। আমি তাহার প্রস্তাবের প্রতিবাদ করিতেছি। দেশে আনন্দ বাজার, বসুমতী, অমৃত বাজার, হিন্দুস্থান Standard প্রভৃতি প্রতিদিন যেভাবে অলিক কাহিনী প্রচার করিয়া দেশের লোককে ভ্রান্ত করিতে চেষ্টা করিতেছে, সেই অবস্থায় "আজাদের" ন্যায় একটী স্পষ্টবাদী সংবাদ-পত্রকে আমাদের সাহায্য করা উচিত। আমি আজাদের এই বরাদ্দ সমর্থন করিতেছি। জাতীয় সংবাদপত্রকে সাহায্য করা জাতীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের অবশ্য কর্ত্তব্য। স্যার, এই প্রদেশের রাজস্বের একটি বিরাট অংশ জেনারেল এডমিনিষ্ট্রেসনের জন্য ব্যয় হয়। সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীগণ এখনও তাহাদের নীতি পরিবর্ত্তন করেন নাই। তাহারা যে জনগণের ভৃত্য একথা এখনও স্বীকার করে নাই। তাহারা প্রভু, প্রজাগণ ভৃত্য এই মনোভাব এখনও তাঁহাদের ভিতরে রহিয়াছে। এই প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্তশাসন দেশে পরিচিত হওয়ার সহিত যে সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের আমলা তান্ত্রিক গভর্ণমেণ্টের ধ্বংস সাধিত হইয়া জনসাধারণ ও জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধির হাতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আসিয়াছেন এই বিশ্বাস তাহাদিগকে করাইতেই হইবে। আমি স্বরাষ্ট্র বিভাগের আশু দৃষ্টি আকর্ষন করিতেছি।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED:

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়! আপনার অনুমতি নিয়ে আমি আমার বন্ধু মকবুল হুসেন সাহেবের ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব সমর্থনের সুযোগে দুই একটা কথা বলবো। আমাদের পাড়া পাঁয়ে একটী প্রবাদ আছে যে কথায় চিড়া ভিজে না। এই পরিষদের ভিতরে এসে আমার এই জ্ঞান হয়েছে যে বাংলার বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী এবং তাদের অন্ধ ভক্ত চাল ডাল তেল নুন ও হলুদ মরিচে মিশ্রিত খিচুড়ী দলের অর্থাৎ কোয়ালিশন দলের সভ্যেরা বাংলার জনসাধারণকে কথা দ্বারাই চিড়ে ভিজিয়ে খাওয়াইতে চান। খিচুড়ি দলের সদস্যেরা সকলেই বক্তৃতায় পঞ্চমুখ কিন্তু ভোটের বেলায় উল্টামুখ। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমার একটা গল্পের কথা মনে পড়িল। শিয়াল নাকি ডাকে, আর বলে যে, পেদারে মান্ শাহা বোদ্ অর্থাৎ আমার পিতা বাদশাহা ছিলেন, কিন্তু কুকুরগুলি যখন তাড়া করে, আর বলে যে "কবুরে হালা কবু" অর্থাৎ কোন দিন তোর পিতা বাদশাহা ছিল? অমনি শিয়াল লেজ গুটাইয়া জঙ্গলে পলায়ন করে। খিচুড়ি দলের আমার বন্ধুরাও এই রূপই করিয়া থাকেন।

আজকে দেখতে পাচ্ছি এই খিচুড়ি দলের বন্ধুরা অনেকেই বক্তৃতার বেলায় পূর্ব্ব দিকে, কিন্তু ভোটের বেলায় পশ্চিম দিকে। এই মাত্র গোলাম সরওয়ার সাহেব যে লম্বা গলায় কতকগুলি বাজে কথা বলে গেলেন, তাহার সম্বন্ধে আমি বোলতে চাই যে তিনি এই পরিষদে খাস মহলের খাজনা ও নজর প্রতি একর এক টাকা হইতে তিন টাকার বেশী হইতে পারিবে না, এইরূপ ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছিলেন কিন্তু ভোটের বেলায় তিনিই সদল বলে প্রস্তাবের বিপক্ষে ভোট দিয়া প্রস্তাবটী বাতিল করিয়া দিয়া খাস মহলের প্রজাদের সর্ব্বনাশ করিয়াছেন। আমি বোলে দিচ্ছি বাংলার জনসাধারণকে এইভাবে ফাঁকি দেওয়া আর বেশী দিন চোলবে না। বর্ত্তমানে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী খিচুড়ী দলের সহায়তায় এই পরিষদে যে সকল কার্য্য করিতেছেন, তাহা জনসাধারণের কল্যাণের জন্য মোটেই নহে। বরং আগামী নির্ব্বাচনে কি করে জয়লাভ করা যাবে, তাহারই ফন্দি আঁটিতেছেন। কিন্তু আমি এই পরিষদে ঘোষণা করিতেছি যে বাংলার জনসাধারণ এখন আর ঘুমে নাই। নির্ব্বাচনের সময় আসিলে, পরিষদের কার্য্যবিবরণী বই দেখিয়া তাহারা বলিবে যে, তোমরা বক্তৃতা দিয়াছ একদিকে, ভোট দিয়াছ অন্যদিকে কেন? এইসকল কৈফিয়ত কড়ায় গণ্ডায় তাহারা গণিয়া লইবে। আমি স্পষ্টই দেখতে পাচ্ছি, সাম্নের ইলেক্‌সনেও কি কোরে জনসাধারণকে ফাঁকি দিয়ে জয়লাভ করা যাবে, মন্ত্রীদের পক্ষ থেকে সেই বিষয়ে চেষ্টা চোলছে। [A MEMBER: ঠিক ধোরেছেন; (laughter.)] বক্তৃতা দিয়েছেন পূব দিকে কিন্তু ভোট দিয়েছেন পশ্চিম দিকে কেন? —একথা যখন ভোটারগণ বোল্‌বে, তখন টের পাবেন। এই বাংলাদেশে যখন আমাদের মাননীয় হক সাহেব তাঁর সাঙ্গোপাঙ্গ নিয়ে বাংলার মুসলমান রাজত্ব গোড়তে বোসেছেন তখন থেকেই একদল বেকার যুবক হক সরকার জিন্দাবাদ গাহিতে গাহিতে যখন গলা শুকিয়ে আসল, তখনই আজ প্রায় ৮ মাস পূর্ব্বে—সরকারী চাকরীর প্রত্যেক বিভাগে শতকরা ৬০টী মুসলমানদের দিতে হবে; এবং কুড়িটী তপছিলভুক্ত জাতিসমূহে দিতে হবে। আর ২৫ বৎসর চাকরী যাদের হয়ে গেছে তারা অবসর গ্রহণ কোরতে বাধ্য হবে,—এই যে দুইটী প্রস্তাব এই পরিষদে পাশ হয়েছিল, তখন যুবকদের শুক্‌না গলায় কিছু রসের সঞ্চার হওয়াতে আরও জোরে জিন্দাবাদ গাহিতে লাগিল, কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত সে প্রস্তাব কার্য্যকরী না করায়, বেকার যুবকেরা হক সরকার জিন্দাবাদ গাহিতে গাহিতে, গলা শুকিয়ে ও পেটের ক্ষুধায় আজ মোরতে বোসেছে—এদিকে বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন দৃষ্টি পড়িতেছে না। মনে রাখিবেন যে, যুবকেরা কড়ায় গণ্ডায় তাদের সে পাওনা আদায় কোরে নেবে। এরকমভাবে ফাঁকি দিয়ে এড়ানো বেশী দিন চোলবে না। তাই আজ আমাদের দাবি এই যে হয় প্রস্তাবগুলি তারা কার্য্যকরী করুন, অন্যথায় মন্ত্রীত্বের গদি অবসর কোরে দিন। (A member from the Coalition Group: তা দেওয়া হবে—আপনি আসুন, আসুন।) আইন করা হয় দেশের শান্তির জন্য কিন্তু বাংলার ফল তাহার উল্টা। আজ বাংলার পরিষদের ভিতর যে আইন পাশ হবে,—সেই আইনের দ্বারা সারা বাংলাদেশে শান্তি প্রতিষ্ঠা হবে। কিন্তু সেই আইন পরিষদের ভিতর থেকে আজ সারা বাংলায় অশান্তির আগুন জ্বালানো হচ্ছে, এবং এই পরিষদের ভিতর থেকেই খিচুড়ী দলের সদস্যরা তাহাতে ইন্ধন যোগাইতেছেন। বাংলায় যে আগুন জ্বলিয়া উঠিতেছে তাহাতে ইন্ধন যোগাইতেছেন আমার ময়মনসিংহের গৌরব (?) মাননীয় অর্থসচিব সরকার মহাশয়। আমি মুক্তকণ্ঠে ঘোষণা করিতেছি যে এই আগুনদ্বারা সরকার মহাশয়ের বংশধর যাহারা কেন্দুয়া থানার সাবিউড়া গ্রামে বাস করিতেছেন তাহারাই সকলের আগে ভস্মীভূত হবে। এদিকে বাইরে বাইরে লোকেরা হিন্দু মহাসভা আর মুস্লিম লীগ বোলে চিৎকার কোরছে কিন্তু আমরা মন্ত্রীত্বের গদীর ভিতরে দেখ্‌ছি হিন্দু মহাসভা ও মুস্লিম লীগ তলে তলে এক হোয়ে গেছে। কারণ হিন্দু মন্ত্রী সকলেই হিন্দু সভার সভ্য এবং মুসলমান মন্ত্রী সকলই লীগের সভ্য অথচ তাঁরা কিরূপ মিতালি করিয়া কাজ করিতেছেন তাহা দেশবাসী দেখিতেছেন।

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, "This is hell, nor am I out of it"—said Marlowe's Mephistopheles. I was reminded of that

saying when I listened to the speeches of most of my friends on the Congress benches, not only yesterday and to-day but on many occasions before. Just as Mephistopheles carried the atmosphere of hell wherever he went so do my friends, the Congressmen, exhale the atmosphere of venomous communalism whenever they speak. They have attacked the Ministry because in their opinion the Ministry has failed to safeguard the interests of the Hindus. They have magnified beyond all proportion one or two minor and negligible instances and alleged that the Ministry is communal and has encouraged Muslim officers to act communally. Like a true camp follower my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, the redoubtable progressive Indian Nationalist attired in imitation European costume, who takes a special delight in black-guarding his community and holding up to ridicule everything that true Mussalmans cherish, joined in the chorus in the expectation that as soon as his speeches are over, he will be rewarded by congratulatory kisses from his Hindu patrons of the Congress group. If men like him are refused a hearing by the Muslim masses, the Ministers are not to blame. As a matter of fact men like him should thank their stars that the Ministers are able to protect them from the wrath of a community whose patience they have taxed almost to the breaking point.

Sir, we also have our grievances aginst the Ministry. I shall come to that later. But as far as the charge of fostering communalism to the detriment of the Hindu minority is concerned let me assert that it is a foul slander which has absolutely no legs to stand upon. If there is any province in India to-day where the minorities are getting a square deal in every respect, then that province is Bengal. The Hindus in Bengal are not only getting their due but much more than that. The critics of the Bengal Ministry forget the miserable plight of Muslims in Congress provinces. They talk of Feni but they forget Aurangabad, Dadri, Tilokari and Muzaffarpur. Where in Bengal, I ask, have Muslims committed anything like the cruel atrocities which have been committed by Hindus upon Muslims in several other provinces? Has there been a single occasion in Bengal when a mass attack has been made on the Hindus by the Muslims, where Hindu houses have been burnt, Hindu houses looted, and think of what happened at a Muzaffarpur village only a week or so ago. That is how minorities in other provinces are faring. In Bengal, nothing of that nature has happened and will not happen as long as the present Ministry rules the land. Yet my Congress friends have the shamelessness to come forward with their ridiculous and malicious attack.

Sir, the real story is quite different. It is a section of the Hindus who have time and again given provocation to the Muslims and even perpetrated outrages in different parts of Bengal. They have done so at Burdwan. They have done so in many other places. Only recently they have done so at Cossipur. And yet because they have a powerful press which always suppresses inconvenient truth and spreads falsehood,

the outside world gets the impression that Muslims are aggressive. If the Hon'ble the Home Minister likes, he can, I am sure, give many instances of Hindu aggressiveness both official and non-official. I ask him to do so, and I ask him not to stand on a false sense of ceremony and decorum. Libellous and false charges have been brought against his administration. Let his critics get the hard and unvarnished facts. Let him tell them the truth.

Now, Sir, about the alleged communalism of Muslim officers. That is a lie and a libel. The real truth is that even to-day the communal spirit sways the conduct of a section of Hindu officers and not of Muslim officers. Mr. Harendra Sur has attacked the Muslim Subdivisional Officer of Feni for encouraging the building of an *Idgah* through voluntary labour. May I ask whether the *Idgah* has been built on a piece of land that forms a part of my friend Mr. Sur's personal property or on the Government land? Then why does he tear his hair in sorrow? If he wants instances of real communalism of Hindu officers, I can cite any number of them. Sir, in my own place, Jamalpur, the Hindu constables have erected a *Shiva Mandir* in the grounds of the criminal court on Government land. Similarly a *mandir* has been built in the old thana premises. But when Muslims wanted permission to erect a pulpit in a place where they say their *Id* prayers they have been refused permission. During the *Bakr-Id* last year when Hindu constables of Mymensingh forcibly seized a cow purchased for *qurbani* by a Muslim constable, the Hindu Additional Superintendent of Police refused to interfere. To this day the Hindu Additional Superintendent of Police and the Hindu constables remain unpunished. It is no use adding instances.

Now, Sir, I come to my grievances against the Ministry. My first grievance is that they have not been able to check the depredations of a section of communally-minded Hindu officers. The Hon'ble the Home Minister always tells us that he must be just. Let him be just and do justice to all.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, বর্ত্তমান minister দের ও তাদের দলের গালাগালিটা শুনে নিলাম। এবারে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে, বাজেটের ভিতর দিয়ে কি কোরে নিজেদের দলটাকে বজায় রাখা যায় মন্ত্রীদের সেই চেষ্টাই ফুটে বেরিয়েছে। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর দিকে দৃষ্টি দিলেই আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে আজ হিন্দু মহাসভা আর মুস্লেম লীগ এই যে দুটো Communal organisation আছে তাদের দুই দলের লোকই ওখানে বোসে আছে। তারা আজ চাইছে যে দু দলের মধ্যে ঝগড়া লাগিয়ে নিজেদের গভর্ণমেন্ট বজায় রাখবেন। ওদিকের ওরা অর্থাৎ মন্ত্রীর দল কাজও বোলেছে এবং আজও বোলেছেন যে আমরা ধর্ম্মের ধার ধারি না ধর্ম্মসম্বন্ধে কিছু জানি না। কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরতে চাই কোরাণের কোন জায়গায় আছে নিজেদের বোন এবং স্ত্রীকে নিয়ে সিনেমা ও বায়স্কোপে যাবার ব্যবস্থা এবং Great Eastern হোটেলে এবং অন্যান্য বিদেশী হোটেলে যাইয়া নিজের স্ত্রী ও বোনদের নিয়া মদের বোতলের পর বোতল চালা ও খানা খাওয়া। মুসলমান

ধর্ম্মের কোন জায়গায় আছে—আমি জানতে চাই যে, নিজেদের সমস্ত পর্দ্দা এবং সমস্ত আব্রু ছেড়ে দিয়ে রাস্তায় রাস্তায় ফুটবল ক্লাবে ও মাঠে মেয়েদের নিয়ে যেখানে সেখানে ঘুরে বেড়ানো এবং আজ যারা এ সব কোরছে তারাই চিৎকার কোরে বলে, আমরা মুসলমান। যারা ওজু কাকে বলে জানে না, নামাজ কাকে বলে জানে না, যারা কোরাণ কোন দিন পোড়ে দেখে নাই তারাই হলো মুসলমান সমাজের প্রতিনিধি। যারা নাকি বাংলার জনসাধারণ, কৃষককুলের সর্ব্বনাশ কোরেছে, তাদের education না দিয়ে, এবং নানা রকমে দেশের সর্ব্বনাশ কোরে নিজেদের উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধি করাই হলো যাদের কাজ তারাই বোলছে "আমরা মুসলমান।" যারা মুসলমান বোলে পরিচয় দিয়ে মদ খাওয়া, support করে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি কোন মৌলানা ফতোয়া দিবে—যে তারা মুসলমান? জনসাধারণ যদি শিক্ষিত হয় তাহলে এসব ভেল্কি বাজি ও ফাঁকি ধরা পোড়বে সেই জন্য education কোন রকমে বন্ধ কোরে রাখার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে।

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Have we come here to listen to a budget of abuses or to discuss the Budget.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: It is you who has started them.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আমি এদের আর একটা কথা জানিয়ে দিতে চাই, মুসলমান হিসেবে চিৎকার আর গুণ্ডামি কোরে, সত্যকারের ধর্ম্মকে হারিয়ে, সত্যকারের মুসলমানকে চেপে রেখ এই যে চিৎকার এ আর বেশীদিন চোলবে না। আমি সাবধান কোরে দিয়ে যাই,—জনসাধারণ শীঘ্রই বুঝতে পারবে যে এসব মেকি টাকার আওয়াজ, এবং শীঘ্রই আসল টাকা চিনতে পেরে তারা এ সব মেকি টাকা ছুঁড়ে ফেলে দিবে।

আর একটা কথা বোলতে চাই বর্ত্তমান লেবার মিনিষ্টার সাহেবের সম্বন্ধে তিনি পদিতে বসে লেবারদের কি কোরছেন, কেবল communalism প্রচার কোরে কোরে labour দের দুভাগ কোরে দিচ্ছেন। সেখানে টাকা দিয়ে লোক নিযুক্ত কোরে—যারা নাকি labour সম্বন্ধে কিছু জানে না সেই সব লোকদের শ্রমিক কেন্দ্রে পাঠাচ্ছেন। ঐ যে ওখানে সেফাতুল্লা সাহেব বোসে আছেন, আমি দেখতে পাচ্ছি।

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been an almost universal complaint from the speakers opposite that under the present administration the country is being permitted to precipitate headlong towards communalism. There is none here in Bengal to promote nationalism. Mr. Banerjee has lamented that the communal virus has even penetrated into labour spheres and unions. One honourable member from Noakhali has charged several members of the Coalition group with the crime of spreading communal spirit. When these issues are being dinned into our ears so often and with such vehemence, it is time for us to be appraised of their true significance. No one can deny that India is a land inhabited by different communities. As long as these communities exist, there is bound to be some feelings and aspirations on communal lines. He who denies it, is at best a hypnotic, if not a liar. But in spite of these feelings, if one adjusts them in a spirit of accommodation and give and take, all disharmony between

the communities is bound to disappear. But instead, if one faces these feelings in a spirit of overbearing haughtiness, tries to drown all expressions of these in the name of so-called nationalism, feelings become embittered and disharmony between the communities ensues. Sir, what does the word "nationalism" signify? Is there any common tie and common culture which can bind the people of this sub-continent, India, into a homogeneous whole? Leave aside the Muslims; are the Hindus themselves a homogeneous people capable of calling themselves a nation? Does the word "Hindu" signify anything beyond a conglomeration of heterogenous elements inhabiting Hindusthan? If they are a composite nation, why do the Scheduled Castes, Harijans and others clamour for special rights against the so-called National Congress. On the other hand, if they have an idea of creating a nation whose only cementing tie will be identity of economic interest, throwing religion entirely in the background, in that case too, Sir, there is the danger of the country and its people being divided vertically. The Muslims resent that for that reason they do not like to make irreligion the basis of statecraft. Sir, Mr. H. G. Wells has very aptly said that nationalism in India is a cheap and unthinking imitation of the West.

Sir, here in this House the bogey of communalism has been raised with a clear motive of maligning the Muslim League organisation. The Muslims of India, particularly of Bengal, have gained political consciousness nowadays. They are repudiating the guardianship of the Congress with regard to their political rights and urged by a common consciousness and need of the moment, they are going in for an organisation which they may call their own and to which they can entrust the guarding of their rights. Necessarily there has been a flutter in those quarters which deem themselves the sole arbiters of the fate of the people of India. These monopolists and their henchmen now find that the plank is slipping from other their feet. They cannot exploit the labour people for their own political purposes. They can no more delude the cultivators in the name of so-called nationalism and bread. The wind has completely been taken out of their sail. The Muslim League is triumphant and invincible now. No use chafing at it and shouting it down in the name of communalism. The caravan will march to the destination in spite of all these. Why blame the Government and ask it to interfere? The Government can take steps only to guarantee peace and order. No Government can be a partisan in these matters. As regards peace and order, Bengal had an undisputed and unique record during post-autonomy days. Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, Sir, I think, has abused the right of freedom of speech here in this very House, when he rose to speak about the freedom of expression of opinion. His speech degenerated into the ravings of a man——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time of discussion of the Budget grants regarding General Administration in previous years, various questions about financial and budgetary points used to be raised, but unfortunately this year, Sir, it has degenerated into mutual and group recriminations.

Sir, it has rendered my task easy because there are only a few points to reply, so far as it concerns financial and budgetary matters.

Sir, I do not think that the Congress party has got dearth of competent men in its fold to criticise the grants for General Administration, but, Sir, I feel that this year there must be nothing much for criticism in the Budget. That is why even a competent man like Dr. Sanyal with all his resourcefulness has devised a cut motion to discuss the question of Federation, because there was nothing in the Budget which he could criticise so ably as Federation. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Absolutely competent.) But in that, Sir, he failed. He tried to pick out the election expenses and connected it with Federation, but, Sir, you have disallowed that.

Next, Sir, the adjunct of the Congress party, I mean the *Chota* Opposition, or the seceders from the Proja party, have also not found anything to criticise in the budget. With the ostensible purpose of criticising Government's failure for not allowing free expression of opinion to the citizens in Calcutta and in the mufassal, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar exercised the freedom—I should say the unbridled freedom—of speaking against all his opponents. There is no criticism of the budget in his speech. (MAULVI ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: We are always the *Chota* Opposition and never a *Burra* Opposition.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar, I would request you and another friend (laughter) not to interrupt the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Then, Sir, my redoubtable friend Mr. Nausher Ali raised his stentorian voice against Government's failure to fix a percentage of appointments amongst the various communities within 8 months. Of course, as a neo-nationalist Muhammadan he says that he does not believe in communalism or in the fixation of a percentage, but he raised the constitutional position because Government have not accepted the resolution which was passed 8 months ago. Sir, this reminds me of a couplet in D. L. Roy's song:—

"আমরা যোগল ভক্ত বোলে চেঁচাই উচ্চ রবে,
কারণ ভেতর যতই অভাব সেটা তত্ই বোল্‌তে হবে।"

In other words, we cry ourselves hoarse about our loyalty to the Moghuls, because we must make up by the loudness of our protestations for the weakness of our faith.

Mr. Nausher Ali says that he is not a believer in the fixation of a communal percentage, and still he must have it.

Sir, he has referred to some discussion which he had with the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. Sir, I am not disclosing any secret, but we also have had opportunities of discussing matters with Mr. Nausher Ali, and he used to say that he did not believe in communalism, but that 80 per cent. of the appointments in the Co-operative Department should go to Muhammadans because those appointments were mostly for the benefit of the Muhammadan community. He would demand that 55 per cent. of the services must go to Muahmmadans because he had found that reservation was necessary and that Hindu officers did not give appointments to the Muhammadan community on account of nepotism, but at the end he would say that he was a nationalist Muhammadan and that he did not believe in this sort of communalism.

Sir, you must have noticed that while Mr. Nausher Ali was speaking in favour of fixation of a percentage, there was no cheering from the Congress side. But Mr. Nausher Ali could not tolerate that. He wants to shine under the protection of the Congress. So, as soon as he found that the Congress did not cheer him, he attacked British Imperialism and then got cheers from the Congress party; and the cheering apparently proved so intoxicating that he left his own seat and came and sat near my friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas in the Congress bench. (Laughter.) (MAULVI ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: What about the constitutional point raised by Mr. Nausher Ali?) (KHAN BAHADUR MOHAMMED ALI: Wait and see.)

Then, Sir, I come to the speech of my friend, Mr. Satya Priya Banerji, regarding the problem of unemployment. Sir, he himself said that under the capitalistic system there must be unemployment. And under the present constitution we cannot abolish the capitalist system, still he accused us that we have not been able to solve the unemployment problem within these two years. Sir, there is some confusion of thought. My friend has spoken for 10 or 12 minutes, but I have not found a single suggestion from him which could show the way in which Government could solve the problem of unemployment to Mr. Banerji's satisfaction. Government's duty is to create avenues of employment, and that duty Government are discharging by the extension of their social services every year. By recourse to public work, again, Government are extending the avenues of employment every year. Of course, I do not say that they are sufficient to meet the situation that has arisen, but the resources of Government are not such that they could solve the problem overnight or in two or three years' time. But this may be said without fear of any contradiction that every scheme which the Government are giving effect to goes to that extent to solve the problem of unemployment in this province.

Then he ridiculed the appointment of an Employment Adviser. The appointment of the Employment Adviser, however, was absolutely necessary, because in Bengal young men do not know even what posts exist in this province and in the other provinces and what scope of employment there may be in industrial and commercial concerns. He has strongly commented that we have not taken a leaf out of the books of Governments abroad. If he means by this Soviet Russia, then I submit that, under the present constitution, which may be good or bad, we cannot do anything but work it, and we cannot follow the example of Soviet Russia—whether it is good or bad I do not say. If he means that we have not provided for doles or unemployment insurance, I think he is mistaken because we have not got such huge funds at our disposal that we can provide for the insurance of the unemployed in this province. For purposes of insurance "unemployed" means those who are temporarily unemployed. For general unemployment doles are paid in England to an unemployed person satisfying the "means test" but in this country, although there be a large number of unemployed youths, I do not think such a "means test" would be applicable in very many cases.

Then, Sir, Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy, Mrs. Hemaprova Mazumdar and Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali have accused us that we have not done anything towards retrenchment. Sir, I have circulated in this House about three days ago a White Paper about the progress of retrenchment and giving the reasons why certain of the recommendations of the Swan Committee have not been given effect to. Neither Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy nor any of the other speakers has been able to criticise any of the reasonings put forward in that paper. We have good reasons why we have not been able to accept all the recommendations of the Swan Committee, and I have not found a single criticism of a constructive nature. These criticisms are all hardy annuals. Regarding the Budget also, I say that they have not been able to find fault with us, but in order to criticise us, Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy has quoted figures which are not correct. I will only give one example. Mr. Roy said that the General Administration Budget of 1936-37 amounted to Rs. 1,33,97,000, but the real figure was Rs. 1,00,47,000. Mr. Roy did not take into account the charges in England which were separately accounted for and which were included in the total for the major heads for 1937-38. Mr. Roy deducted election expenses from the total of 1936-37, but he has not done so in the figure for 1939-40. From all these facts, I can say that Mr. Roy is not correct in his charge. Government have done their very best in the matter of retrenchment, and I can state without fear of contradiction that this Government in comparison with all other Provincial Governments have done much better in the matter of retrenchment.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I wish to make a short statement regarding the points raised by Mr. Nausher Ali.

namely, that Government have not been able yet to come to a decision regarding the fixation of percentage of appointments for the various communities in the public services. It is extremely unfortunate that those persons who are the loudest in their complaint against the Government in this matter are the very persons who put difficulties in our way. They are urging one thing upon us in this House, but say a different thing when they go outside. The House will remember that last year when this question was being discussed, I stated that I would do my best to have an agreed settlement by a conference between the leaders of various communities. I have been trying to hold this conference and have had some sittings, but have not been able to come to a decision yet. I am glad that my friend Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, has come back and is attending the House to-day. I will try to fix a date convenient to him and other leaders and try to arrive at an agreed settlement between the leaders of the different communities. If there is an agreed settlement, Government will not hesitate to implement it at once, but if there is no immediate settlement, Government will not hesitate to pronounce its decision. Meanwhile, no harm will be done as we have decided that until an agreed decision is arrived at, there shall be no retrenchment in any branch of the public services.

I will only say one word regarding Mr. Nausher Ali's remarks about British Imperialism. Once upon a time an Englishman borrowed £10 from an Irishman: the matter had to be put to court, but they could not find an impartial judge in the whole British Isles, and they had to go all the way to America for an impartial judge. The American Judge gave a judgment which for its harmlessness stands unparalleled from the days of Solomon. The American Judge decided that the Englishman must give the Irishman a receipt and the Irishman must give the Englishman a receipt and the constable on duty must pay for the costs!

Here in India Mussalmans must assault Hindus and the Hindus must assault Mussalmans and the Europeans who have nothing to do with these quarrels must bear all the blame and obliquy of these things. Now, Sir, if any outsider had been present to-day and heard the debate, he could have at once made out why is it that India has not been able to set an example in the matter of the formation of a National Government. The fault lies with us and not with British Imperialism. I hope my friends will take this lesson at heart before they indulge in diatribes against British Imperialism.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I have had the privilege once more of being confronted by the President of the All-India Trade Union Congress. On this occasion his speech has not

been characterised by those vituperative outpourings which characterise the speeches of the labour members from the other side. I shall deal with the points which have been raised by him in earnest——

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir. May I know if the Hon'ble Minister is not out of order in criticising the speech of a member on the opposite side as "outpourings"? I think this is unparliamentary.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If the influence of Mr. Banerjee and his colleagues has declined in the labour areas, let him not condemn the Government for this but look to themselves. It is impossible to implement the loud promises made by him at the time of the election. The subversive and revolutionary slogans now have no meaning against a National Government. (Cries of "Oh! oh!" from the Opposition Benches.) He has brought about strikes, but he has not been able to make anything of success out of them, and is it at all a wonder if the labourers to-day discard Mr. Banerjee and his colleagues and turn to better and saner methods of dealing with their labour problems? Trade unions are bound to rise—trade unions founded on constitutional principles which are not prepared to be utilised by Mr. Banerjee and his colleagues for political purposes.

Mr. Banerjee has charged me with creating communal trade unions. It is hardly necessary for me to deny that statement. Ever since I have come into office, if Mr. Banerjee will refer to all the statements made by me in public, he will see that I have condemned communal trade unions. I have made it clear that trade unions that indulge in communalism or are confined to any particular community, have not the least chance of recognition either from the Government or from their employers. I shall certainly discourage their existence. But it cannot be denied that if this Ministry has got a following amongst the labourers, and amongst Muslim labourers, and the Muslim labourers have taken to the path of constitutionalism earlier than the Hindu labourers who may be under the pernicious influence of Mr. Banerjee and his colleagues, then these constitutional trade unions are bound to be manned by Muslim labourers to some extent. I have been watching their progress and find that Hindu labourers are joining in large numbers these constitutional trade unions and the charge which has been laid by Mr. Banerjee is only a cry of despair at his own failure to implement his promises which cannot stand. Mr. Banerjee will please himself try and see that communalism is not imported into the labour circles. Since last month I have been watching that Mr. Banerjee and his friends of the Labour party have been going amongst the Hindu labourers and have been shouting Hindu slogans and communal slogans amongst them, calling upon them to be communally minded. I hope this movement will be suppressed as

early as possible, and those unfortunate scenes which have been witnessed on this occasion in the labour areas will not be repeated. I am certain that if Mr. Banerjee and his colleagues desist from the attitude which they have taken——

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I was not there.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Why does Mr. Sibnath Banerjee rise? Mr. Sibnath Banerjee's position is this that while formerly whenever he attended a meeting he could have a crowd of 10,000 to 20,000 people, he cannot now get even 100 people to attend his meeting.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: The Hon'ble Minister cannot make any inaccurate statement about me. He said that the Labour members were shouting communal slogans; it is an incorrect statement.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: May I know whether any member can intervene without raising any point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: When there is a certain amount of allegation made either by the Left or the Right, I must give a fair opportunity to a member to answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I personally have no objection to this interruption. They are entitled to explain. I want them really to take these remarks to heart. We have been greatly perturbed by the excitement which we have seen on this occasion when the Hindu masses have been organising various processions and attacking the Muslims unnecessarily. I want them to take these to heart and try their level best to see that this feeling does not increase.

One other thing that he has referred to is the security of service. Ever since this Government has come into power I have impressed upon the employers that security of service must be maintained with the result that while formerly in jute mills a large number of persons were dismissed, to-day the number of dismissals is negligible. I desire that the employers shall not dismiss the labourers except for causes which have been specified. I also wish that when a labourer is dismissed, a charge-sheet should be placed before him so that he may be able to carry his grievances to proper quarters.

(Here the Hon'ble Minister reached his time-limit, but was allowed to proceed.)

Let me turn for a moment to Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar only to deal with those remarks which he has made against me personally. I treat those remarks with disdain and contempt, but I think the time has come now for the House to take stock of the method——

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of order, Sir. Is it parliamentary to use the word "contempt" in connection with a speech of a member of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I have heard that expression from both sides, and I do not think it is unparliamentary.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The speeches in this House are privileged, and they are privileged on this theory, that it is expected that persons who come to the Legislature should restrain their language and exercise discretion. It is also expected that persons who speak on the floor of this House should conduct themselves in a proper manner. At that time when the rule was framed, the framers of the rule did not realise that a person like Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar would be returned as a representative of the people to a Legislature. He has uttered calumnies which are in the very worst taste, and are in no way consonant with the dignity and prestige of this Assembly. If Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar wants that the public should give him liberty to speak he should try and restrain his language a little bit more.

(The Hon'ble Minister having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: The Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy's speech has been full of dishonourable and unparliamentary words.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As the time is short, I will try to deal with some of the points that have been raised very briefly.

I will first of all take up the motion moved by Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar regarding the failure to grant the right of free expression of opinion to the citizens in Calcutta and in the mufassal. Most of the incidents to which reference was made have been the subject of discussion in this House, but still I would like to point out that as far as the assault on Mr. Humayun Kabir and Maulvi Abul Mansur is concerned, these two gentlemen definitely refused to press their charge to the police officer in charge. I fail to understand——

(There were interruptions from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are interruptions from my left, this debate will be prolonged. I want to give a fair opportunity to the Hon'ble the Home Minister to reply, and I will try to finish this debate within 12 minutes and put the motions to vote.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I fail to understand the mentality when persons who are aggrieved deliberately refuse for reasons best known to them to press their charge. How can any step be taken to redress their grievances?

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Home Minister possibly has forgotten the law that when there is rioting, it is for the Government or the police to take the law into their hands.

(As the Speaker rose there was shouting from all sides.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope members will kindly show courtesy to the Speaker when he is speaking and not shout. I want to come to a decision, but if at that time there is shouting, it is impossible for me to carry on. Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, I am very sorry that one in your position should raise this point of order. It may be a point of law, but it is not a point of order.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as Government are concerned, if they take steps to protect the members from being assaulted, it is assumed that the right of free speech is being restricted. If they go and ask the two members who have been assaulted to press their charge, they refuse to do so. On both sides Government are at fault.

I would like to deal with one other incident to which reference was made, but was not discussed in this House, namely, the incident that took place at the Town Hall when a public meeting was called and the Mussalmans of Bengal were invited to attend the meeting. On that occasion the convener of the meeting Mr. Nurannabi was present when a number of Peshwaris appeared with sticks in their hands. The police officers immediately drew the attention of the convener and wanted to stop these persons, but Mr. Nurannabi intervened and said: "It is all right, allow them to come." When the fraccas started and the people were being assaulted, it was only then that the police intervened. The police did not go there. They were down below, but when they heard the shouts, they rushed in and tried to separate the fighters, and when they did separate, it was found that the *lathis* in the hands of the Peshwaris were not only sticks but big *dandas* which were surreptitously taken there. First of all, as far as this Government are concerned, the only duty they performed was that of separating the two groups which were fighting with each other. And here we find Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar condemning the Government for their interference. I suppose he expects that the police officers down below should have been where they were and allowed heads to be broken and persons to be killed. That is the only explanation I can give for the criticism that has been made by Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar.

Secondly, as far as the condemnation of the Muslim League and the Khilafat Committees are concerned, that again is equally false because the aggressors must be those who go to the meeting with lathis and not those who go without any sticks even in their hands. The latter cannot be the persons who can be called aggressors. I may say this, that the Khilafat Committee and the Muslim League have tried their level best to keep the peace in Calcutta for which all of us must be thankful. So far as this question is concerned, it is bound to be raised in the discussion on the "Police" cut motions, and I shall then be able to give you a fuller reply than at present.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is the Hon'ble Minister speaking in his capacity as a Party man or as Home Minister?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I draw the attention of Mr. Basu that references have been made in the speeches to the activities of the League and the Khilafat Committee and Government have been criticised for not restraining their activities. That is the only reason.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: You are giving an official certificate.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as the motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur is concerned, I very much deplore this resolution being brought in here. I really fail to understand the mentality which has prompted this resolution.

Sir, compare the conditions in Bengal with the conditions obtaining in other provinces. Can anybody honestly say that there is really any serious communal riot in Bengal or any serious cause for apprehensions? Compare the incidents that have taken place in all the provinces, compare the riots that have taken place, compare the occasions in which shooting has taken place—compare these with the conditions prevalent in Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Even murders have taken place there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I ask the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy on my right and Dr. Sanyal on my left not to interrupt.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Even if we compare Madras, which is among the best governed of the Congress provinces and which approaches somewhat to the standard in Bengal, if we compare that province alone, you will find that there have been more occasions in Madras where the police have had to open fire than in

Bengal. So far there has been only one unfortunate occasion when the police were forced to open fire. But the way in which the motion has been moved and the speeches that have been delivered on both sides show that the people on the other side seem to be sorry that they have not had such communal troubles in Bengal. That is the only explanation I can give. May I tell them that unfortunately the Congress party has descended to this level; now that they have got nothing to attack this Government, they have taken to deal in stolen letters. Sir, everybody knows how the poor Editor of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" was pulverised into submission. Everybody knows that the poor Editor was guilty of a conversation at a social gathering and meaning was put into it which was never thought of and which was never uttered. Let me tell them that as far as the Government of Bengal are concerned, these stolen letters will not——

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: God save such papers from such friends!

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is most unfortunate that deliberate attempts are being made in this province to create communal bitterness and communal feelings. Let me first of all take the instances from the time we assumed office. These Congress papers, these so-called nationalist papers, have day in and day out tried to condemn the Government. Even when those who are trying to support what has been said in the papers come out with resolutions here they cannot cite one instance. It is well known that the Chief Minister wrote to all the four papers which had written that this Government were indiscriminately doing injustice to the Hindu community and asked them to produce one instance in which injustice had been done. So far not one paper has had the courage to cite one instance because injustice does not exist.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Numerous instances have been given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a challenge which has been thrown out.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid it is not. I cannot understand the ideology which makes you think that every speech is an occasion where you have the right to contradict a statement. There are occasions where you can do so. If there is anything of the nature of a personal attack, then a member has got a right to rise later on and

give an explanation. But short of that I will not allow any interference either on my right or on my left so long as the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin is speaking. I hope honourable members will realise this, and I appeal to the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition to help me in this matter.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Before I close my speech I want to refer to one important point that has been made. In the speeches of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur and some other members from the other side, reference has been made to the unfair treatment of the Hindu officers. Now, Sir, as far as the officers in the services are concerned, it is well known to the members of this House that they are very well protected and that they have got the right of appeal to His Excellency the Governor, the Central Public Services Commission and in certain cases to the Provincial Public Services Commission. Now, Sir, I ask—has there been any case where so far any officer has been aggrieved and has had to protest and appeal either to His Excellency the Governor or to the Central Public Services Commission? This is a statement of fact, Sir. I can state without fear of contradiction that this Government has been fair to every man in the services whether he belongs to the Hindu, Muslim, or any other community.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I ask whether I shall have the right of reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, I do not think so, Dr. Sanyal. This is closing the debate and there cannot be any further speech.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He is putting questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may reply to them on other occasions. So far as this debate is concerned it is closed. The inevitable result of parliamentary discussion is that somebody will have to speak last and afterethat there cannot be any further discussion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If he challenges, what will be the position? All these statements are not true.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: May I submit this, Sir: This is the reply by the Hon'ble Minister. He has got to reply to the criticisms made and in his reply if he brings in new facts and charges should not we have an opportunity to reply? He says, "I challenge."

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is a challenge to any individual member, or if any personal allegation is made against any individual member,

then surely it is permissible for him to rise and make a statement. But if there is a statement which is in the nature of a reply given by the Hon'ble Minister, you cannot discuss it again.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Will he abuse his last word in this fashion?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have abused nobody. I have merely stated that every officer is protected; he has got his right of appeal both to His Excellency the Governor and the Central Government. There is not a single officer so far who has made any protest whatsoever and I am sure other provinces cannot make the claim which I have made.

Now, Sir, the point is that Hindu officers serving under the Government will not support the statement that has been made by the members of this House, and I am sure they are satisfied and contented and that they know that they are being justly and fairly treated. I have nothing further to add, Sir.

The motion of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Premhari Barma that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division called, with the following result:—

AYES—78.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath.
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Bannerjee, Mr. Manoranjan.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Barman, Babu Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Surat Chandra.
Chakraborty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mahim Chandra.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dalui, Mr. Narendra.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Nibarendu.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan.
Maji, Mr. Advaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Manirruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Mir
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nasker Ali, Mr. Syed.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramiruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Kamakrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Kalinathe.
Sanyal, Mr. Sanesha Sekhar.
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath.
Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Narendra Kumar.
Wahid Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—121.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Bari, Maulvi.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Kader, Mr. alias Lal Meah.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdur Razchid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Rauf, Mr Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Ali, Mr.
Aftab Hossain Jeardar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali, Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Aftmuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Asiad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Bamberman, Mr. G. C.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. E.
Blomeostock, Mr. L. M.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Crosfield, Mr. L. M.
Das, Mr. Amulya Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edgar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Banu Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Hymenshigh), Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. G.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs. M. B. E.
Hatemality Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Heman, Mr. F. T.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, Mr. G. C.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtab, Maharajkumar Uday Chand.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Miller, Mr. G.
Mohammad Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Haq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ismail, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Muhammad Soleiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Nukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Purbe Behary.
Musharruf Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustaqueel Haque, Mr. Syed.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srishchandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasiruddin, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F., L.
Rajkut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.

Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Sassoon, Mr. R. M.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Mukda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Warren, Mr. P. F. S.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 78 and Noes 121, the motion was lost.

(When Mr. Speaker was going to put the motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur to vote, there was considerable noise.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I would request honourable members to observe silence and take their seats when I am on my legs. It is unfortunate that a tendency of shouting and talking amongst members is daily growing, so much so that if an outsider were to enter the Chamber casually, he would take away with him an impression which honourable members will not surely relish.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—22.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Mr.
Wallur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—113.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Bari, Maulvi.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Kader, Mr. alias Lal Miah.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdur Rasshid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.

Abdur Rauf, Mr. Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Ali, Mr.
Aftab Hossain Joarder, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Alimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amiruliah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Asiad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Bansilrman, Mr. H. C.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Blomeostock, Mr. L. M.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Crosfield, Mr. L. M.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Faziel Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Faziel Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Fazlur Rahman, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M. B. E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hawkins, Mr. R. J.
Homan, Mr. F. T.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jalajuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. C.
McGregor, Mr. C. C.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtab, Maharaj Kumar Uday Chand.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Millar, Mr. C.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. G., C. I. E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Soleiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsel Haque, Mr. Syed.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nazarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K. C. I. E.
Noeruddin, Mr. K.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Sassoon, Mr. R. M.
Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C. B. E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabant.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Chowdhury, Moulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Warren, Mr. P. F. S.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Chowdhury, Mr.
Zaher Ahmed Chowdhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 22 and the Noes 113, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shahedali that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 30,000 was then put and a division taken.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, may I draw your attention to the fact that as a result of dishonest paring by a European

member a lady member of the Congress group, Miss Dutta Gupta, has been prevented from casting her vote in this division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you withdraw that expression "dishonest"? (Cries of "Withdraw! withdraw!")

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If it is withdrawn, then there remains no complaint.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was imputation against a member, and I want you to withdraw it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If you will kindly make an enquiry and find that I am not correct, then I will certainly withdraw.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have the right to draw my attention to the fact that a certain member was prevented from voting as he pared with another member, but you cannot possibly ascribe any dishonesty.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No name has been mentioned. If you insist on withdrawal, will you kindly make an enquiry and see what I submit is true or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: My point must not be misunderstood. I am not concerned with the name. When any member has done an act, that act cannot be attributed to dishonesty. There is an act and whether that act is right or wrong or legal or illegal, you must leave it to me to decide. You cannot say that that act is dishonest. You must withdraw the word "dishonest."

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I substitute the word "improper" for the word "dishonest."

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you withdrawn the word?

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: He has done that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have done it.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, he has not withdrawn the word. He simply said "I substitue."

Mr. SPEAKER: He has done that.

The following is the result of the division:—

AYES—76.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath.
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Bannerjee, Mr. Manoranjan.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Natha
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chakraborty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mahim Chandra.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Debi, Mr. Narendra.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhuri, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Nomaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Manirazzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. S.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Muhiek, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Kamakrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath.
Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Narendra Kumar.
Wahiur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—60.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Kader, Mr. alias Lal Meah.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abigar Reza Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul-Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Ali, Mr.
Aftab Hossain Jeardar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Azizul Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirti Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Ekbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Reza Choudhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.

Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Alhaj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs.
Hatemaily Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Chowdhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Sulaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruf Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawasi Hayee, Mr. Syed.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasaruliah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sarker, the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondker, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Chowdhury, Maulvi Haji.
Yusuf Ali Chowdhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 76 and Noes 90, the motion was lost.

The motion of Maulvi Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Satya Priya Banerji that the demand of Rs. 1,19,29,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by 100 was then put and lost.

The original motion that a sum of Rs. 1,19,29,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think it would be convenient to take up the next item now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will that be guillotined then?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I have not asked you your views. I told you before that this is the parliamentary practice that when a matter of procedure is concerned the wishes of the party leaders are consulted. I want to know whether we should continue from the party leader or the party whip and not from you.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: If you will allot a time for the discussion of "Debt conciliation" to-morrow, then the House may be adjourned, but if it is a question of being guillotined, we would like to continue to-day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Our debate on "Jails", though actually fixed for one day, may not actually take a whole day, as last year, so I hope we will get time to discuss "Debt conciliation" later. It won't be guillotined.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 20th March, 1939, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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Bengal Legislative Assembly Proceedings

(Official Report.)

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